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Influence of Community Participation in Projects Identification and Project Design on Completion of CDF Funded Projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency, Kenya

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Abstract

Community participation otherwise known as participatory development is critical especially in aligning Kenya's development to the Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Constituency Development Fund (CDF) as a development tool has been in existence for the last twelve years and has been a precursor to the current devolution process. The program has created an opportunity for Kenyans to participate in national development through identifying and undertaking projects in various sectors. The whole idea behind CDF formulation was to ensure equitable economic, social and political development across the country and at the same time give citizens the opportunity to identify and implement projects that addresses their felt needs. The challenge however, has been that communities do not seem to be playing their rightful role in CDF project identification and designing. The CDF projects have not also been successfully completed in time and in a cost-effective manner. The study sought to establish; the influence of community

participation on completion of CDF's infrastructure projects in primary schools in Kajiado Central Constituency, Matapato South Ward. The study was guided by the following objectives; to determine the influence of community participation in projects identification and to establish the influence of community participation in project design on completion of CDF projects in Matapato South Ward in Kajiado Central Constituency. The study used survey research design. Target population for the study was 19 head teachers, 19 Board of Management members, representing the number of public primary schools, five chiefs and two CDF officials. Since the target population was small census method used to sample the respondents. Data was collected with the use of questionnaires and interview guides. Data obtained was then subjected to SPSS for analysis to provide both descriptive and inferential analysis. The study found out that Community Project Identification is positively and significantly related to project Completion ($r=0.245$, $p=0.000$). The results indicated that Project Design and Implementation is positively and significantly related to project completion ($r=0.364$, $p=0.000$). The study concluded that community participation in projects identification and community participation in project design and implementation positively and significantly influences completion of CDF projects in Kenya. The study recommends that the community should have a say in what the projects sets out to do, the priority areas, and tasks scheduling. Involved in a process make people feel able to express themselves on what they require. The study also recommends that communities should have an interest in project implementation processes to ensure projects are completed according to plan, budget and timeline. Furthermore, community members should be willing to pass information about meetings set to improve attendance.

Keywords: *Community Participation, Projects Identification, Project Design, Community Development Fund (CDF), Matapato South Ward in Kajiado Central Constituency.*

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Participatory development, where local people are engaged in some active way in development planning and implementation, has a long history and a respected place among development intellectuals, policymakers, and practitioners throughout the "first" and "third" worlds (Joachim von Braun 2005). The roots of citizen participation can be traced to ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate "external" participation. Citizens' participation was institutionalized in the mid-1960s with President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs (Cogan & Sharpe, 1986). Community participation is a concept that has been described by various scholars in various ways. A World Bank article by Mansuri and Rao (2004) and quoted by Nabayethi Dube (2009) describe community participation as the active involvement of a defined community in at least some aspect of designing project and implementation. Mansuri and Rao mentioned that while participation can occur at many levels, the key objective is incorporation of local knowledge into project's decision-making process. According to Nabayethi Dube (2009), Mansuri and Rao argued that

community participation is expected to better designed projects, better targeted benefit and more cost effective and timely delivery of project outputs.

Support for participation has instrumentalist, philosophical, and political underpinnings. The instrumentalist foundation involves a recognition that top-down, technocratic forms of development imposed on diverse local realities often result in failure; that local people best understand their own needs; and that involving local people can be cost-effective in terms of reduced capital costs and increased involvement in operation and maintenance. The philosophical-political foundation involves the belief that poor people should be empowered and should have more command over their lives (Chambers 1995); and that they should be empowered “to determine choices in life and to influence the direction of change” (Moser 1989)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the year 2003, the Kenyan government enacted the CDF project Act as a legal document intended to guide the development at the grass root level in the country. This follows a number of other government policy documents formulated to guide community development. For instance, the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) that was formulated in the year 1983 to spur development in the districts across the country (Ngacho & Das, 2014). The CDF Act was designed to provide a platform for greater community involvement in initiating, designing and implementing of projects of their choice. Moreover, unlike other government documents before, CDF has a legal backing and has explicit provision for citizens’ participation.

In a study conducted by Ngigi (2015); an assessment of Community Participation in CDF funded project in Laikipia East District, it emerged that 69.5% of the respondents had never participated in CDF funded projects (Grace 2015). In the same study by grace 2015, it was revealed that 80% of the people interviewed are not satisfied with the manner in which CDF funded projects are implemented. At the national level, some efforts have been put in place towards community empowerment to ensure community members come up with projects that best address their felt needs. However, in Kajiado Central Constituency not much has been achieved in terms of community active participation in CDF project. Though the community through their elected representative i.e. Board of Management (BoM) in schools identify projects to be funded by CDF the actual implementation of these projects have been dogged by delays, incompleteness and poor standards.

This study sought to investigate the influence of community participation in projects identification and project design on completion of CDF funded projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central constituency.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study was anchored by the following objectives;

- i). To determine the influence of community participation in projects identification on completion of CDF funded projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central constituency.
- ii). To establish the influence of community participation in project design on completion of CDF funded projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency.

1.4 Research Questions

This study attempted to answer the following research questions;

- i. How does community participation in projects identification influence completion of CDF projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency?
- ii. To what extent does community participation in projects design influence completion of CDF projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency?

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Review: Theory of participation

The Theory of Citizen Participation as advanced by Cogan & Sharpe, (1986), states that citizens' participation is a process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. According to Michael Brydger (2012), participation is the active engagement of the minds, hearts and energy of people in the process of their own healing and development. Because of the nature of what development really is, unless there is meaningful and effective participation, there is no development (Bopp and Bopp 2006). In the past, participation was used to describe an outsider's engagement with a community. Spradley's Participant Observation (1980) is indicative of this. However, with an understanding of participation as defined by Bopp and Bopp, it becomes a term imbued with community empowerment rather than with community need and concession.

Many agencies or individuals choose to exclude or minimize public participation in planning efforts claiming citizen participation is too expensive and time consuming. Yet, many citizen participation programs are initiated in response to public reaction to a proposed project or action. However, there are tangible benefits that can be derived from an effective citizen involvement program.

Cogan and Sharpe (1986) identify five benefits of citizen participation to the planning process: Information and ideas on public issues; Public Support for planning decisions; Avoidance of protracted conflicts and costly delays; Reservoir of good will which can carry over to future decisions; and Spirit of cooperation and trust between the agency and the public. All of these benefits are important to community development initiatives, particularly CDF projects and programmes; a reason which this theory applies to this study. If practiced correctly, the theory of participation, in a macro sense, provides the means for an outsider to engage with and learn from local communities, and in a micro sense, absorbs local ways of knowing to drive the theory resulting in meaningful action (Michael Brydger, 2012).

2.2 Empirical Review

Andrea Cornwall (2008) in *Unpacking 'Participation': models, meanings and practices* observed that; widespread adoption of the language of participation across a spectrum of institutions, from radical NGOs to local government bodies to the World Bank, raises questions about what exactly this much-used buzzword has come to mean. An infinitely malleable concept, 'participation' can be used to evoke – and to signify – almost anything that involves people. As such, it can easily be reframed to meet almost any demand made of it, Cornwall (2008)

According to Oakley (1995); participation cannot merely be proclaimed or wished upon rural people in the Third World; it must begin by recognizing the powerful, multi-dimensional and, in many instances, anti-participatory forces that dominate the lives of rural people. Centuries of domination and subservience will not disappear overnight just because we have 'discovered' the concept of participation. (Oakley, 1995). Community-based and -driven development projects have become an important form of development assistance, with the World Bank's portfolio alone reaching approximating \$7 billion (World Bank 2004). For a project to have a positive impact on people's lives, the people themselves should have a say on what the project sets out to do. The

community therefore, should actively participate in planning meetings to come up with project objectives, key intervention areas and project possible project outcomes.

As Crewe and Harrison (1998) articulated, participatory approaches tend to overlook complexities and questions of power and conflict within communities. They are designed based on the false assumption that the community, group, or household is homogeneous, or has mutually compatible interests. Differences occur with respect to age, gender, wealth, ethnicity, language, culture and race. Even though marginalized or minority groups (such as females, landless, or poor) may be physically present during discussion, they are not necessarily given a chance to express their views to the same degree as others. And, related to the question of who participates is what they participate in, and, as a corollary, who participates in which activities and at which stages in the process, Distinctions need to be made about how and on what basis different people engage in order to make sense of what 'participation' actually involves in community development initiatives; (Cornwall, 2008).

Being involved in a process is not equivalent to having a voice, voice needs to be nurtured. People need to feel able to express themselves without fear of reprisals or the expectation of not being listened to or taken seriously; Cornwall (2008). Translating voice into influence requires more than simply effective ways of capturing what people want to say; it involves efforts 'from above' and 'from below', Gaventa and Robinson (1998). From within the authorities, responsiveness is contingent on wider institutional changes and the political will to convert professed commitment to participation into tangible action. In addition, strategies are needed to build and support collectivities that can continue to exert pressure for change, Houtzager and Pattenden, (1999). In project design, the community should participate in planning meetings the community should also have a say in what the projects sets out to do, the priority areas, and tasks scheduling.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

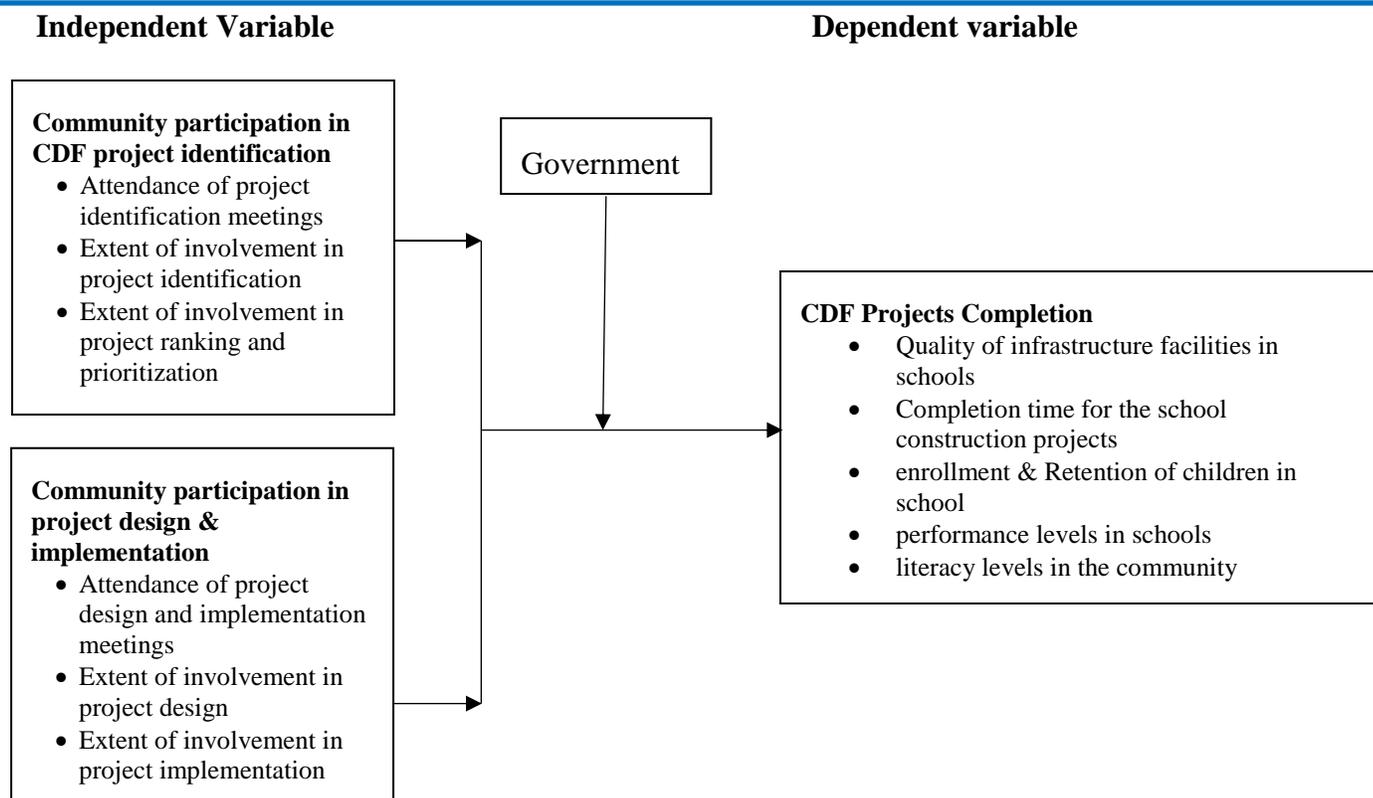


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.0 Research Methodology

A research design is the strategy for a study and the plan by which the strategy is to be carried out (Cooper & Schindler, 2001). It specifies the methods and procedures for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. The study adopted descriptive analysis. Descriptive survey is a description of the state of affairs, as it exists (Orodho and Kombo, 2002). The target population for this study was all the public primary schools in Kajiado Central constituency, Matapato South Ward that have benefited from CDF sponsored projects. There are 19 registered public primary schools in Matapato South ward (Source; DEO office 2015). The study target was 19 head teachers, 19 SMC chairs, five chiefs and two CDF officials making a total of 45 respondents in Matapato South Ward. Since the target population was small.

Since the population of this study was small, census approach was used and thus 45 respondents were the unit of observation. This study utilized the questionnaires and interview guide, as the main data collection method. Prior to using a questionnaire to collect data, it should be pilot tested.

The purpose of the pilot test was to refine the questionnaire so that respondents had no problems in answering the questions and there were no problems in recording the data. In addition, it enabled one to obtain some assessment of the question's validity and the likely reliability of the data that was collected. The study used a 10% pretest sample that gave a sample of 6 respondents that were randomly selected. The questionnaires were administered to the 6 respondents who were requested to fill in the questionnaires and encouraged to give feedback regarding the questions in the research instrument.

Validity exists if the data measure what they are supposed to measure. In order to test and enhance the validity of the questionnaire, six questionnaires were pilot tested and reviewed with a view to improving validity of the data that were collected. Industry experts and the research supervisor went through the questionnaire to enhance validity. The questionnaires were then coded and responses input into SPSS that were used to generate the reliability coefficient. The study used the most common internal consistency measure known as Cronbach's Alpha (α) which was generated by SPSS. Having developed and pre-tested the tools, the necessary approvals was sought from the relevant authorities for data collection.

The study used quantitative techniques in analyzing the data. Descriptive analysis was employed; which include; mean standard deviations and frequencies/percentages. Inferential statistics such as correlation and regression analysis were used. The data was presented in form of tables and charts for ease of understanding. Correlation analysis was used to test the association between key independent variables and implementation and results were presented in form of Pearson statistic, having been worked out at the significance level set at 0.05. A multiple regression model was used to test the significance of the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The multiple regression model was presented as follows.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + e$$

Where:

Y = Completion of CDF Infrastructure Projects:

X₁ = Projects Identification

X₂ = Project Design

e is error term

β_0 represents the constant

$\beta_1 \dots B_2$ are regression coefficients for each independent variable.

4.0 Results and findings

4.1 Descriptive Statistics on Community Participation in Project Identification

This section presents the descriptive results on statements on community participation in project identification. Descriptive statistics were obtained through running the statements descriptive custom table and presenting in percentages. The mean and the standard deviations were obtained through running the descriptive statistics. The finding was as presented in table 1.

Table 1: Community Participation in Project Identification

Statements	Yes	No	Mean	Std. Deviation
Involvement in project identification	41.1%	58.9%	1.39	0.49
Involvement in project ranking and prioritization	44.4%	55.6%	1.44	0.50
Involvement during project approval	42.9%	57.1%	1.57	0.50
Average			1.47	0.50

According to results in Table 1, 41.1% accepted that the community was involved in project identification while 58.9% indicated that they were not involved. 44.4% indicated that the community was involved in project ranking and prioritization while 55.6 indicated that they were not involved, while 57.1% indicated that the community was not involved during project approval while 42.9% indicated that they were involved. On a two-point scale, the average mean of the responses was 1.47 which mean that majority of the respondents accepted most of the statements; however, the answers were varied as shown by a standard deviation of 0.50.

4.2 Descriptive Statistics on Community Participation in Project Design and Implementation

This section presents the descriptive results on statements on Community Participation in Project Design and Implementation. Descriptive statistics were obtained through running the statements using descriptive custom table and presenting in percentages. The mean and the standard deviations were obtained through running the descriptive statistics. In this study, Community Participation in Project Design and Implementation was measured by six questions. The respondents were asked to give their opinion regarding Community Participation in Project Design and Implementation. Table 2 shows the results of the findings.

Table 2 Community Participation in Project Design and Implementation

Statements	Yes	No	Mean	Std. Dev
Projects objectives setting and implementation strategies	45.7%	54.3%	1.54	0.51
Identify project intervention areas (implementation)	34.3%	65.7%	1.34	0.48
Project budgeting (costing)	45.7%	54.3%	1.54	0.51
Tasks/roles (Labor and material contribution) allocation	54.3%	45.7%	1.46	0.51
Project scheduling (time frame)	45.5%	54.5%	1.55	0.51
Management of information system (project records)	57.1%	42.9%	1.43	0.50
Average			1.48	0.50

According to results in table 2, majority of the respondents who represented 54.3% disagreed with the statement that the community participation in Projects objectives setting and implementation strategies, 34.3% accepted that the community participated in Identify project intervention areas,. 54.3% of the respondents disagreed with the statement that the community were involved in project budgeting and costing, 54.3% accepted that they were involved in task and roles allocation, 54.5% disagreed that they participated in project scheduling while 57.1% accepted that the community participated in project records keeping. On a two-point scale, the average mean of the responses was 1.48 which mean that majority of the respondents accepted the statements; however, the answers were varied as shown by a standard deviation of 0.05.

4.3 Correlation Analysis

The correlation analysis results is presented in table 3.

Table 3: Correlation Analysis

		Completion	Project Identification	Design and Implementation
Completion	Pearson Correlation	1.000		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
Project Identification	Pearson Correlation	.359**	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000		
Design and Implementation	Pearson Correlation	.474**	-.265**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.005	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
 * Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The results in table 3 revealed that there was a positive and a significant relationship between Community Project Identification and Completion ($r=0.359$, $p=0.000$). The results indicated that there was a positive and a significant relationship between project Design and Implementation and the completion ($r=0.474$, $p=0.000$).

4.4 Regression Analysis

Regression analysis was performed by using the composites of the key variables. The data was input to the SPSS software. Results were then presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

Table 4: Model Fitness for the Regression

Indicators	Coefficients
R	0.767
R Square	0.589
Adjusted R Square	0.573
Std. Error of the Estimate	0.182746

The results presented in Table 4 present the fitness of model used in the regression model in explaining the study phenomena. This is supported by coefficient of determination also known as the R square of 58.9%. This means that independent variables explain 58.9% of the variations in the dependent variable which is the completion of CDF projects in primary schools. This results further means that the model applied to link the relationship of the variables was satisfactory.

Table 5: Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5.111	4	1.278	38.26	0.000
Residual	3.573	107	0.033		
Total	8.684	111			

Table 5 provides the results on the analysis of the variance (ANOVA). The results indicate that the overall model was statistically significant. Further, the results imply that the independent variables are good predictors of completion of CDF projects in primary schools. This was supported by an F calculated statistic of 38.26 which is greater than f critical of 3.84 and the reported $p=0.000$ which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level.

Table 6: Regression of Coefficients

Variables	β	Std. Error	t	Sig
(Constant)	0.575	0.264	2.181	0.031
Project Identification	0.245	0.036	6.864	0.000
Design and Implementation	0.364	0.039	9.405	0.000

Regression of coefficients results in table 6 shows Community Project Identification is positively and significantly related to project Completion ($r=0.245$, $p=0.000$). The results indicated that Project Design and Implementation is positively and significantly related to project completion ($r=0.364$, $p=0.000$).

The specific model is;

$$\text{Project Completion} = 0.575 + 0.364X_1 + 0.245X_2 + e$$

Where X_1 is Design and Implementation

X_2 is Project Identification

5.0 Conclusions

The major finding under the first objective of the study is that the relationship between community project identification was positively and significantly related to project Completion as shown in table 6 ($\beta =0.245$, $p=0.000$). This finding is consistent with that of Paul, in Bamberger, (1986) indicated that community participation contributes to building beneficiary capacity: either through ensuring that participants are actively involved in project identification, planning and implementation or through formal or informal training and consciousness raising activities.

The second objective was to establish the influence of community participation in projects design and implementation on completion of CDF projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency. Regression results reveal that community participation in projects design and implementation has a positive and significant relationship on completion of CDF projects in Matapato South Ward, Kajiado Central Constituency. This means that an improvement in community participation in projects design and implementation leads to a positive variation on completion of CDF projects in Kenya. Further, the finding was supported by results on statements about community participation in projects design and implementation. Majority of the respondents

agreed with most of the statements on community participation in projects design and implementation.

6.0 Recommendation

The study conclusion led to the recommendation that the community should have a say in what the projects sets out to do, the priority areas, and tasks scheduling. Involved in a process make people feel able to express themselves on what they require. The study also recommends that communities should have an interest in project implementation processes to ensure projects are completed according to plan, budget and timeline. Furthermore, community members should be willing to pass information about meetings set to improve attendance. Good attendance improves choice and opinions of participants to be able to settle on priority project according to community needs and budgeted allocation.

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