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Participatory Project Planning Approaches: Reflections from Community Development Initiatives in Low Resourced Countries

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Abstract

Participatory planning approaches are direct engagement with the community in decision-making and give full consideration to their total input in any undertaking that affects them. Projects are created to satisfy community-based or people-centered needs where their input to the project planning will be critical. The procedure of their presence in these project activities is opposed by several challenges in countries that have inadequate resource where development donors support several projects. These projects apply the concept of participatory planning approaches before the projects take off and where the community plays a role in the development of the initiative. The concept has been utilized across new projects in low resource countries, nevertheless met with several constraints thus, growing absence of motivation to the community's participation. This paper is a desktop review of five articles. The papers were searched using Zotero through Google network support. The paper concluded that there is a demand for government and development partners to focus their attention on low resource countries credibly for community participation to thrive. There is a concern going forward since community participation has been misrepresented by governments and the donor community in LRCs. This paper recommended there should be appropriate community participation approaches with the focus to project planning, design, and implementation. There is a need of emphasizing on a policy framework that improves community participation on all development community projects. There should be institutional mainstreaming of community project identification at all the levels of project cycle phases so that they are involved in discovering projects that affect them. Also, there is need for key stakeholders in project development (project developers, bilateral,

multilateral agents, banks and project beneficiaries among others) to develop a guiding policy that supports the community participation concept.

Keywords: *Community participation, Development Initiatives, Low Resource Countries, Monitoring and Evaluation, Participatory Project Planning Approaches, Project management competence, Project planning.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In recent times, participation has been the buzz word for any development program to be initiated. Governments, development agencies and project management proponents have not been left out whenever they are planning and initiating projects globally. No development agenda can be driven without participatory planning. A confirmation of this is drawn from a scholarly point of view through Wasilwa (2015). In recognition of community participation in development perspective, there is growing interest in the management of projects being compelled by practice, people-centered monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring and evaluation of an element of project cycle management will not have any meaning unless there is community participation.

Participatory planning draws its route in the development world. Participatory planning is a process by which a community aims to reach a given socio-economic goal by consciously diagnosing its problems and drafting a course of action to address problems affecting them (Food Agricultural Organization, 2003). Public participation planning has been a useful tool to promote the involvement of the public in the governance of development projects or an idea that the government is pushing for. The concept of community participation is viewed as a basis for project success. The World Bank (2004) defines participation as a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. The concept of community participation originated about 38 years ago in Asia then extended to Africa in the mid-1990's (McCammon, 1993).

Thomas (2013) asserts that community participatory planning in development emerged to curb the drawbacks of top-down development, which entails conception, planning and implementation of projects by the elite without involvement or consultation with the public. Besides, Mbui and Wanjohi (2018) argues that individuals need opportunities to participate in development projects designed for their advantage as this embeds accountability and ensures project sustainability. Participatory development is therefore a grassroots idea that does not support the top-down approach and for any development project. Despite the fact that participation planning is a buzz norm in development, it has been common practice in low resource countries that the public is left out in water projects, thus a gap of participation and that need answers through this desk study.

Several practices of community development planning approach as quoted by proponents of community development experts historically and referenced in the 1990s (Arnstein 1969, Choguill 1996; Dewar 1999)

Empowerment: Where a local community has control over all development initiatives without any external influence.

Partnership: There are some degrees of local influence in the development process. Either community providing essential services and being involved in providing material and contributing physically to communal work among others.

Interaction: Where the community has greater involvement in this level on the undertaking that affects them. The rights of the local community are recognized and accepted in practice at the local level. Hence consultation becomes the norm of all activities in several ways, being involved in the community's meeting, the contribution of manual work, or even public hearings. Developers may accept some contribution from the locals that benefits their project

Enlightening/Awareness: The local community is notified of any development projects or programs that they have participated in to implement. Sometimes the developers normally can implement without listening to the community.

Manipulation: This is where the development of projects is done through either Government entities or powerful people without the community input.

The community participation has been a catalyst for project critical success factors, in development projects and also has been a genesis of project disappointments among low resource countries. Several projects have used the concept however projects have continued to experience conflicts, leading to failure or continuous conflict. Other projects are not able to fully utilize the concept. This is supported by several studies like that on confronting the challenges and barriers to community participation in rural community development initiatives by Great Zimbabwe University (2013). The study revealed that the majority of community members' participation was too low due to coercion as community leaders impose some sanctions. In another study, it was found that lack of commitment in the use of participatory approaches at the district level was also another challenge causing the non-participatory of local community stakeholders in the District Education Strategic Planning process. Other studies have indicated positivity in a community-based initiative for example study by Akhmouch and Clavreul (2016) acknowledged for effective water and sanitation management, a range of stakeholders must be considered including local communities with a more fundamental focus on good water governance (United Nations, 2017).

Community participation in planning support the performance of development projects in Kenya. A study by Ndungu and Karugu (2019) revealed that involvement of the community in selecting the location of the project ensure the security of the project. Governments and project development proponents have done a great job in development projects in low resource countries; however, they are responsible for the rate of project failures. There has been motivated by several reasons most of them related to the project cycle, the pillar of project success factors, thus project performance. Among the reasons for failures are challenges related to community participation, monitoring and evaluation, project management competence, and project planning.

1.2 Justification of the Study Problem

Within the sphere of a given project, there are several project management activities. Several ways of carrying out these activities emerge and become accepted as a day to day norm. The need to meet certain environmental and social challenges, as may be faced by a particular organization, may cause the adoption of certain community project development initiatives. Several initiatives are carried out in the management of projects but not recognized as project management practices. Project performance is the most important confirmation that project funds have been utilized appropriately to deliver the project goals and targets. However, many projects still fail to achieve and realize the expected benefits.

This is in line with the study by Chumbula and Massawe (2018) who established there is a limitation to the level of participation and consultation did not offer community control over project decision making. Several studies have shown there is a knowledge gap in the local community's participation in decision-making processes through planning and budgeting. On the other hand, a study on Population Resources and Environment in Zimbabwe and Tanzania indicates communities were involved in the implementation of the programs at the indication level only. This led to the negligence of the programs by local communities, results were failure and yet the project proponent had termed it a community-led initiative (Leonard, Richardm& Emmanuel, 2013).

Low Resource Countries (LRCs) specifically in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSAs) are among the most affected on the global population without access to clean water which is a development agenda for the United Nations sustainable development goal. This in line with a study by Dos Santos, Adams, Neville and Wada (2017) indicated others are well presented and better facilities concerning clean water. This calls for community participation for a high level of control whereby the community must be able to make strategic decisions from the designing phase to the operation and management (Olajuyigbe, 2016). Thus, there seems to be a knowledge gap, thus formed the justification of the current desktop study on participatory project planning approaches: reflections from community development initiatives in low resource countries.

1.3 Introduction of the Journal Articles

To acquire a better understanding of participatory project planning approaches, this study did an online search for the right journal to examine the reflections from community development initiatives in low resource countries. The search for the right Journals was limited to publication between 2015 to 2020. They were selected with the focus on four main specific elements guided by project cycle management: Community participation, monitoring and evaluation, project management competence and project planning. In addition, another condition considered in the selection of the journals was the source and conformity to the required standard that is justified through International Standard Serial Number and Digital Object Identifier. These journals are referred to as Peer-reviewed Journals.

The study obtained 93 journals, where after screening 30 were selected accordingly. The critical screening was done and finally settled on the best 5 most fitting journals that addressed; Participatory Project Planning Approaches: Reflections from Community

Development Initiatives in Low Resource Countries. All other indicators in compliance with this seminar paper were considered. Sub independent variables considered were: Community participation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Project management competence, and Project planning. Hence indicators of participatory approaches are (participation analysis, problem analysis, objective analysis, and project identification) and are participatory community-based initiatives thus their application from different publishers. This paper selected the following journals.

Section One

1.3.1 Journal one

Happyson (2019). ISSN: 1728-9157. Community Project Implementation issues in The Kingdom of Eswatini: *A Business Journal of Management and Administration*. The author focused on identifying challenges that were experienced during the implementation of community projects in Eswatini and explore the effects on community participation. The paper discussed the issue concerning community-based project initiatives and the challenges that come during their implementation resolving their problems in participation planning.

1.3.2 Journal Two

Raphael, B., & Kim, A., (2019). ISSN: 2141-217. Enhancing community participation to improve the sustainability of irrigation projects in Geita District, Tanzania. They aimed to assess the nature of community participation in irrigation projects in three villages to find out whether community participation used in the projects was likely to lead to their long-term sustainability. The paper focused on participatory approaches in planning and the actual outcome concerning community empowerment finally project sustainability.

1.3.3 Journal Three

Jude N., Balgah R., A., & Akhere S., G., (2016). DOI: 10.11634/233028791604745. *International Journal of Community Development*. Community Participation for Rural Development in Central Ejagham of Cameroon. The paper focused on Community participation in rural development in response to their development problems and the inability of the government to improve on the situation on the performance of Programs.

1.3.4 Journal Four

Adnan., E., Ahmed, K., Suhair, A., & Matthias. S., (2016). ISSN: 2180-3242. *International Journal of Sustainable Construction Engineering & Technology*. The journal is on challenges to Community Participation in Gaza Strip Municipalities focused on several components of community planning approaches; Community, Participation, and Planning. The study aimed to find out how participation in municipalities' decisions and long planning processes ensures their full community engagement in determining their own developmental needs. The major focus was on identifying the challenges for community participation since it is considered as a crucial element for successful governance and service delivery in within Gaza and to the local municipalities

1.3.5 Journal Five

Farida, A. H., Hilda, A. O., & Melckzedeck, K., (2018). ISSN: 2327-5960. Measuring the Level of Community Participation in a Demand-Driven Development Project. This paper discussed the of community participation in the implementation of projects financed through a community grant facility referred to in Kiswahili as Hazina Ya Maendeleo ya Pwani (HMP). The project adopted a Community-Driven Development approach in engaging coastal communities in development initiatives in Kenya. This article focus is paramount due to community development initiative hence the study measured community participation level during Project cycle on Identification, Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Section Two

2.1 Journal Article Analysis

This section of the study focused on the empirical literature review on Participatory Project Planning Approaches: Reflections from Community Development Initiatives in Low Resource Countries. More specifically, areas of focus critically looked into publisher(s) and when the journal was Published; Title, Purpose, Design and the Method of the study, mode of data collection and instruments used to collect data, Study Findings; Similarities and differences (Convergence and Divergence); and Conclusion. This section dealt with the specific analysis of each sub variable on the Participatory Project Planning Approaches: Reflections from Community Development Initiatives in Low Resource Countries.

2.1.1 Journal Article one

Happyson, B., (2019). ISSN 1728: 9157. Community Project Implementation issues in The Kingdom of Eswatini: The journal author Dr. Happyson Bimha (Ph.D.) the associate Professor University of Eswatini in Botswana. The article abstract is quite elaborative with a clear focus on several variables related to project budget cuts, cost over-runs as a result of scope creep, poor quality of a product and projects within the Kingdom of Eswatini, community-based projects. The abstract points the reader to the issues at hand therefore the importance of the paper.

The paper introduction is on point stating clear community's dependence on government. The author though admits that the project management concept portrays, tends to generate improved benefits when project stakeholders pull their efforts and resources together to pursue their objectives, as individuals. Thus, community members often categorize themselves into clusters to accomplish community projects either sponsored through government collaboration with donor support.

The final section introduction captured key items that whereas most community projects in the region were on poverty eradication, there were barriers to achieving the project's goal therefore project failures. One barrier is the conformity of all projects to the monarchy leadership aspiration (Hence the Kingdom monarchy culture). There are two systems of leaders the kingdom monarchy and that of elected democratic leadership where they all run concurrently. The author of the introduction did not capture key terms definition by indicating their meaning.

The statement of the problem was indicated with the latest references and direct to the point. On literature review hence empirical. Despite the research having been done in 2019, the author captures old data from such referencing of 1976,1995,1997,1998 and 2007. The author captured the main reason for community project failure in several countries in Africa including Nigeria, South Africa, and Nigeria. Most of the reasons by the author are inadequate awareness and poor planning, Low educational Levels, Poor living, Busy/no time to participate, and power struggles commitment from other community members among other community participation initiatives.

The author has been clear on the issue that affects the implementation of community projects. Hence on various projects implemented in South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and other developing countries where general community project implementation challenges in less developed countries are linked to unclear project objectives, poor planning, lack of financial support, lack of project management capacity, skills or training, lack of commitment from other community members, poor communication and conflicts corruption and that community participation. Hence the author implied that this implies that project implementation cannot be the end goal of any project since projects survive beyond the implementation phase. Therefore, the elements are a good contributing factor and will help shape the field of Project Management.

The research was limited to the implementation phase. And which is a project cycle point of entry to projects, where a lot of activities including community participation are required only? The findings of the article indicated several challenges. The author focused on, Community Project Implementation in The Kingdom of Eswatini where project budget cuts, cost over-runs as a result of scope creep, poor quality of a product, and projects that took longer to complete or were never been completed. This research was a qualitative study that triangulated in-depth interviews and observations to closely examine challenges faced in implementing community projects in Eswatini.

The author applied a qualitative research survey for the reason that this model has in-depth interviewing and observing critically. Data was collected from well-informed participants. Founded on these findings, 1) to improve project execution and 2) the attainment of project goals, the author stated there is a need for intervention in the form of self-help techniques to capacitate community members to address their local challenges, thus empowering them to participate in resolving their problems in future.

The author's conclusion indicated that there was evidence of conflict within the community leaders. Sometimes they would not reach a consensus among community leaders as to who was in charge of the project. This was the reason for funding withdraw from donors thus project failure. Further conclusion focused on well-researched and well-developed project implementation tools and techniques are required. Additionally, the author was clear that community projects have to be modified so that managerially, economically, culturally, and politically, they are acceptable to the people of Eswatini. This is one sure way to maximize community participation and, by extension, project management benefits for community members.

2.1.2 Journal Article two

January R., & Kim, A., (2019). Enhancing community participation to improve the sustainability of irrigation projects in Geita District, Tanzania. The publishers of the article are January Raphael Bikuba and Kim Abel Kayun. The authors are renowned Administrators in the office of the president regional office and Associate Professor of Rural Development from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.

The article abstract points out summarized information and to the point. The authors also clarify key notions contained in the article with its significance as stated in the topic under study. There are proper coordinated summarized study conclusions as captured in this abstract. The introduction of background information has a good history of the matter under study and capturing a well-informed literature review that covers international and local scenarios.

The authors did not have the statement of the problem, however, clearly stated the underpinning ethos that boosts the application of community participation concept in development projects. They further indicated the importance of the matter under study. They were clear that community participation for women was limited thus, needs for improvement to advance the sustainability of irrigation projects. On the other hand, this article was well researched yet, the authors overlooked significant components like a statement of the problem and the mode of sampling technique. It would have been more informative if the authors justified the gap.

The article's purpose among others was community-based initiatives that foster reducing poverty at the community level. Study areas were, enhancing community participation to improve the sustainability of irrigation projects and the nature of community participation in the irrigation projects through the phases of the project cycle where data was collected from 120 informants. The study used mixed methods-qualitative and quantitative to collect data which was descriptively analysed through the use of package for social sciences (SPSS).

The author's conclusion indicated community participation was not adequate. These conclusions confirmed with other recent studies that projects' sustainability is concerned where in some cases the importance of community participation tends to be underestimated. Based on these conclusions, the authors were concerned that there is a lack of a clear understanding of community participation among the project beneficiaries. The authors recommend that efforts must be put in place to inform and mobilize the community members to participate in all aspects of the projects from problem identification to implementation to monitoring of the projects (hence the project cycle phases). A further recommendation was, participation should be enhanced by applying more innovative participatory approaches like a participatory rural appraisal. They indicated that Local government officials should be trained on the use of participatory approaches with a focus on participation as a means and participation as an end.

2.1.3 Journal Article Three

Jude N., K, Balgah R., A., & Akhere S., G. (2016). Enhancing Community Participation for Rural Development in Central Ejjaham of Cameroon: Challenges and Prospects.

International Journal of Community Development. The first author Dr. Jude N., K, is affiliated with the Catholic University of Cameroon and a senior lecturer who has authored several journals. While Dr. Balgah Roland Azibo is a senior lecturer at Bamenda University of Science and Technology Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development Cameroon. The author is a distinguished google scholar. The third author Dr. Akhere S., G, is an established scholar and senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology and the Human Geography University of Oslo, Norway. The abstract of the article captured the summary of the study. It explained the concept of megaprojects and its underperformance. The author's abstract was well-formatted through stating the methodology used, findings, and summarized conclusion well drawn.

The introduction information as indicated by the authors explains both international, regional, and local historical aspects of the literature review. The authors considered both historical and recent information about the area of study review. The authors of the paper underpinned the concept of community participation as the main aspect of consideration in an undertaking that is people-driven. This has been with emphasis on how participation and community may not be separated thus becoming the key aspect of program success factors. Since this study was authored in Cameroon, community participation historical review in the country was indicated. This is in line with Health community projects undertaken by several missions as an intervention concern in support to governments to bridge the existing gap. Besides, the authors stated how community participation has taken shape globally and recent times spread to low resource countries. It further states that the concept has been taking shape with the focus to mainstreaming it into policy framework within the Low Resource Countries (LRC)

On the statement of the problem, the authors were clear that rural communities have been looking for ways to solve their development within their means. Nevertheless, there has been a constraint on discrepancies of development with limited success. Thus, a notion that, within this community, levels of participation in a majority of the projects vary and a concern. The authors indicated there are sever other challenges including poverty depopulation, mismanagement, limited government support, and conflicting interest that have become a barrier to effective community participation. And need for intervention. The authors covered a clear illustration of on theories of community stages on participation thus getting total control on community participation models that need to be applied.

This study applied primary and secondary data collection. The authors also used focus Group discussions (FGD) to get more insight with the focus on water supply, road, and bridge rehabilitation projects. The study applied content data analysis which lacked or did not show the quantitative aspect. The findings were; road construction and rehabilitation are a major community concern since the government could not bridge the gap. Community participative on water projects by contributing to labour or finances. Challenges that act as a barrier to community development projects well stated. The government not doing enough to support community participation. To enhance community participation, there is a need for technical capacity needs. level to guarantee maximum participation for significant results.

The author's conclusion was well-drawn. There were varying degrees of participation, community efforts have been instrumental in the improvement of the socio-economic livelihoods. There is a relation between the level of participation and the challenges. The authors indicated the need to have African Development bank a Japanese International corporation agency and the world bank support in a development project with a focus on road projects.

2.1.4 Journal Article Four

Adnan., E., Ahmed, K., Suhair, A., & Matthias, S., (2016). *International Journal of Sustainable Construction Engineering & Technology*. The article is authored by Adnan., E., Ahmed, K., Suhair, A., and Matthias.S., they collaborated from three leading universities (University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, Berlin School of Technology (TU Berlin), Germany and The Islamic University of Gaza Palestine.).

Affiliation

The First author is Adnan Enshassi is a Distinguished Professor. Dr. Eng. Of Construction Engineering and associated with Management Faculty of Engineering, The Islamic University of Gaza Palestine, Ahmed K is a Ph.D. ongoing student, Dr, Suhair is a lecturer at Asia Pacific International College while Prof. Dr. Matthias Sundermeier is head Faculty of Planning, Building, Environment at the Technical University Berlin. The authors are distinguished scholars with credible experience.

The study abstract presents a summary of the by providing an overview of the application of Community participation in municipalities. This is through decisions and long planning processes ensure their full engagement in determining their destiny. The authors condensed all the information of the study by drawing their firm conclusion on the study area hence the concept of understudy community participation. The study introduction focused on community participation in development and its alignment in policy framework in South Africa.

This study did not have a long introduction or background data the authors put more emphasis on how community participation approaches aid development within government municipalities in the Gaza strip. They captured the importance of engaging the community in determining their destiny thus must be involved in the management and govern project that affects them. The authors though stated clear that s community participation in decision making is beneficial and a catalyst for project sustainability. The authors went on to state how community participation has a different meaning from globally. This is based on the legislation aspect however the general meaning would be engagement within different parameters concerning what the community aspires. For example, the legislation relating to community engagement varies from state to state in Australia.

The author quoted an example from South Africa that, community participation is largely linked to the planning and management of development activities. On the other hand, another example from international spheres within North America (Canada and USA) who share Niagara Falls region's municipalities. That, public participation in local planning and community development processes vary. Hence Canadian municipalities adopt a broader

range of public participation approach that focuses on; volunteering and public engagement, neighborhood and strategic planning, and e-government.

Whereas in the US municipalities are more likely to promote public participation either through an approach of community meetings and referendums. The authors completed their introduction stated that how community participation has motivated researchers on finding challenges that become a barrier. Some barriers and challenges noted were; which include a low level of community capacity; lack of capacity of local authorities to work in community-sensitive ways; local authorities reported considerable human resource difficulties in supporting attendance at partnership board meetings; institutionalized resistance about community empowerment; perception gap between community members and statutory service providers in the partnership context; authoritarian of the local government members. Other challenges that faced participation in the planning process are political partisanship, lack of resources and efforts; tribalism dominance of the municipality administration, community's misunderstanding of the planning process, poor organizing, and political affiliation. In essence, the authors captured many challenges from diverse regions about the concept of community participation.

The study methodology was a qualitative survey through the use of questionnaires as a mode of primary data collection. The authors observed all due process of validation and where pilot testing of instruments was done and finally, Likert scales form of questionnaires were used to ascertain the authenticity of the study data collection instruments. The authors used SPSS as a form of data analysis from 200 respondents in the Gaza strip Palestine. The study findings were drawn from data analysis based on the dependent and independent variables where the study hypothesis brought in the real picture of the independent variable. That, there was a lack of trust and respect between local government and communities, the lack of communication channels, and legislative challenges were significant challenges to community participation. The conclusion was that the authors indicated there were real challenges to community participation. The authors revealed that a shortage of skills was the most significant challenge group to community participation. Reasons given for their findings were they; lacked training, inadequate skill, limited understanding of participants' roles, and responsibilities in the participatory process among others. The author's conclusion indicated also community participation other challenges were financial ability, political interference, and cultural norms. The authors recommended Training and development, a Policy framework through legislation, and allocation of resources to enhance community participation at all levels.

2.1.5 Journal Article Five

Farida, A. H., Hilda, A. O., & Melckzedek, K., (2018). The Journal focused On Measuring the Level of Community Participation in a Demand-Driven Development Project.

Affiliation

The authors are affiliated with internationally credible institutes namely; Pwani University, and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya. These are learning and research-orientated organization in Kenya. Author one is an on-going Ph.D. student at Pwani University. Author two is a senior lecturer at Pwani University and Chairperson of

the Department of Environmental Studies-Community Development, at the same university, while Author Three Dr. Melckzedek K. Osore has Ph.D. - Biodiversity and Productivity of the Kenya Coast is affiliated to Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI). He has authored and supervised several Ph.D. and masters students since 2004, thus with wealth experience.

The abstract of the article is organized and with the right format for every step. Steps cover well chronology items, hence the objectives, methods, where the study was done, and finally concluding. The author captured significant terms that include the subject under study that corresponds with the topic of this paper.

The introduction of the article looks critically at the historical background with quotes referenced when community participation came into action in Africa. The authors captured clearly how the concept of community participation has evolved from the 1990s to where we are. The authors also indicate the importance of community participation with a focus on how it has become a significant element of development. The themes that the authors highlighted are it gives the unfortunate power of speech, a choice, and becomes an essential component to development and policies, a symbol of independent progress practice, helps develop people, helps on sustainable, and improve project design. The author focused on how community participation makes programs more closely tied to local needs by giving them a voice that helps in getting better decisions for them.

The historical review focused on how None Governmental organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have been used as agents of change. The authors indicated how NGOs and CBOs have been instruments for consultation on community-based initiatives projects which have a local solution. They indicated that the historical idea draws back to the 1970s where proponents' main aim has been to mainstream the community participation to every development agenda. The authors voiced up their concern on Western scholars who have sentiments that community participation has to be enforced through the condition. The authors indicated that Community Driven Development CDD is an approach that underlines the handing over of planning decisions and investment resources directly to community groups and the local government. They emphasize participatory typologies such as Participatory Action Research, Participatory Development, and which focus on CDD.

The methodology was ex post facto research design (quasi-experimental study) where they aimed to determine a significant relationship between the CDD approach and level of community participation. The authors focused on assessing the extent of community participation in the four phases of the project cycle namely: 1) project identification; 2) project planning; 3) project implementation and 4) project monitoring and evaluation. The population was drawn from six counties in the Coast region and from CBOs and NGOs that are involved in community development initiatives where data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from respondents. The questions were structure in a three to three-point Likert rate scale. The sampling procedure is in this study was indicated as they proportionate sampling to obtain a fair representation of community members. Hence Simple random sampling techniques to obtain sample size

from the sample frame. Data analysis was processed through the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences Version's latest version.

Results and discussion explained and captured what the authors aimed at the article. The authors provided narrative and descriptive statistics. It is important to note that, the authors did not use inferential statistics. The narratives are well organized and easy flowing and addressing the key area; Level of community participation and participation index where all the key variables are anchored under. Can sum-up that, the author's discussion on the results was well presented.

In conclusion, the authors established that the communities actively participate in the implementation of the Hazina Ya Maendeleo ya Pwani (HMP) projects. Their conclusion was drawn from the Community Participation Index (COPI), which was high signifying an elevated level of participation by the community.

The author, however, indicated that COPI was low during the process of proposal development and which they thought was due to the level of high illiteracy levels amongst coastal communities. The authors were clear on the conclusion that the CDD approach was an effective approach for enhancing active community participation in development projects. On the other hand, they were skeptical that performance may be undermined through several factors including lack of technical skill. The authors recommended; 1). Optimization of community participation in development projects is critical for their sustainability,2). Illiteracy to be addressed to enable community participation in planning for development projects.3). Develop community capacity to acquire skills in proposal writing for active participation in development

2.2 CONVERGENT ANALYSIS

This section of the paper provided summarized similarities discussed in the presented journal articles.

2.2.1 Conceptualization of the Problem

Happyson (2019) describes democracy as an idea but not an ideal because what is considered ideal to Botswana Kingdom culture promotes respect for its traditional leaders by allowing them to play an active role in implementing community projects. Monarchical democracy in the current context implies that donor-funded projects will fail unless they respect the system on the cultural aspect.

Raphael, et al. (2019) noted that agricultural production in Tanzania has increased slowly and for some reason, community participation has not played a major role to make irrigation projects sustainable to benefit farmers. Indeed, they quoted data from Tanzania Economic of statistics report that, between 2006 to 2012, the share of the agriculture sector in total GDP decreased from 27.7 to 23.2%, while the shares of industry and service sectors increased from 20 to 22%, and from 46 to 49% respectively.

Jude, et al. (2016) found that limited success has been registered for most enclaved and backward communities in the South West Region in Cameroon where significant

developmental wants exist in one of the most backward divisions of the South West Region of Cameroon.

Adnan, et al. (2016) identified major barriers to the achievement of community empowerment, which includes a low level of community capacity; lack of capacity of local authorities to work in community-sensitive ways; local authorities reported considerable human resource difficulties in supporting attendance at partnership board meetings; institutionalized resistance concerning community empowerment; perception gap between community members and statutory service providers in the partnership context; authoritarian of the local government members

Farida, et al. (2018), who found that critics of participatory approaches and its potential to produce sustainable outcomes have focused on its methodological, outcome, and ethical concerns. From a methodological perspective, poor training on the part of facilitators could potentially affect the inclusiveness and ownership experience of a participatory process for the participants in developing countries.

2.2.2 Methodology

Journal articles by Happyson (2019), Raphael, et al. (2019), Jude, et al. (2016) and Adnan, et al. (2016) were all qualitative and quantitative surveys methodologies. They analysed primary and secondary data where data was collected either through the use of questionnaires, FGDs, and observation. Whereas Farida, et al. (2018) used quasi-experimental (Ex post facto) study design. The article collected data using a semi-structured questionnaire and analysed using descriptive (frequencies, standard deviation and mean)

2.2.3 Findings

Happyson (2019), Raphael, et al. (2019), Jude, et al. (2016) and Adnan, et al. (2016) had some similarities that agree that community participation has key effects on the success or failure of any community-related project. The articles have utilized mixed methods: qualitative and quantitative to establish community participation initiatives in development projects. In a nutshell interpretation, the authors indicated there is a need for training communities across the globe for better participation skills. This has been justified by their concern on other sentiments on the approaches that may be used to the practice of community development with a focus to proponents of projects that include project sponsors, developer and government taking their full responsibility to enhancing best approaches of community participation in all the areas of the project cycle. On the other hand, the authors in the articles laid concern on the policy framework and that national government need to put in place a robust policy that will make community participation compulsory in all project development undertaking.

Farida, et al. (2018) the authors of journal 5 agreed that there was a high community participation index in the overall implementation of the development projects. The authors, however, were clear that participation was limited to the proposal writing due to a lack of skill in the communities. The author of journal 5 corresponded with the rest (1 to 4) that,

Community Driven Development (CDD) approach is effective in actively engaging communities in the implementation of development initiatives.

2.3 DIVERGENT ANALYSIS

The section provided summarized differences discussed in the presented journal articles.

2.3.1 Methodology

Article 1 to 4, Happyson, (2019), Raphael, et al (2019), Jude, et al (2016) and Adnan. et al (2016) utilized qualitative and quantitative method. Indeed, the articles used hybrid models of data collection where findings were drawn from data from primary and secondary sources. To some extent, observation and FGDs were used to collect data. The only credibility aspect would be drawn from focus group discussion where participants may have heard ethical dilemmas concerns. Journal Article by Farida, et al (2018) utilized the ex post facto research design where they were looking into the relationship of variables and where they focused on descriptive and inferential statistics for data analysis.

2.3.2 Findings

The fact that all five journal articles focused on hybrid models (mixed approaches - quantitative and qualitative methods) of inclusivity of their findings. The authors brought out the best of the study area. Hence their studies contribute highly to the field. There was though exceptional case from article 3 authors, that provided an awesome illustrated theoretical framework to underpin and support their study a shift from the rest. The illustrations focused on how community participation approaches must be applied to empower people that they can control their destiny on projects that affect them and with the focus on the phases of the project cycle. Article 5 was experimental research where their findings were quite mixed; that there was a high level of community participation based on their community participation index but the same time was low during project proposal writing this may be a contradiction.

2.4 Summary of the gaps

There are gaps concerning the study approaches. All five Journals used a qualitative and quantitative study. Yet, ethnographic approaches would have been suitable in the area of community participation initiatives. Hence, this would bring in the best scenario for community participation approaches. None of the articles used an ethnographic study approach thus a gap. The five articles have not specified clearer data analysis approaches other than having used qualitative and quantitative. However, there is not very clarity on how the hypothesis was tested, thus concern that is leaning to the knowledge gap.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Community participation has been covered well, therefore, awesome experience and participatory learning through reading the five journals article. Besides, there is a notion that the concept may be forced through government and development partners to advance their interest. There is a need for all the global partners and nations in low resource countries to embrace it positively without conflict of interest.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion from practitioners, experts, projects proponents and scholars have not been clear what has gone wrong with the concept of community participation initiative practices and approaches. There has been a lot of debates as to actually if community participation is a rubber stamp donor and government way of imitating projects and yet, they don't measure to the times. There should be proper community participation approaches with focus project planning, design and implementation address. Thus, it is recommended that;

1. Low resource countries to review their policy framework that will enhance community participation on a needs assessment of all development projects.
2. Institutional mainstreaming of community project identification at all the levels of Project cycle phases so that they are involved in identifying projects that affect them.
3. Need for key stakeholders in project development (project developers, bilateral, multilateral agents, banks and project beneficiaries among others) to develop a guiding policy that supports the community participation concept.

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