

**FACTORS INFLUENCING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT IN BUSIA COUNTY KENYA**

**BY**

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## DECLARATION

This Research Report is my original work and has never been presented for an academic award in any other university.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this Research Project to my sons Wesley and Franklin, my wife Ruth Wanyonyi, parents, Francis and Gertrude and to my brothers Tobias and Frebias, and sisters for their moral support.

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CG</b>	County Government
<b>HIV/AIDs</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>KDHS</b>	Kenya Demographic Health Survey
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>TOC</b>	Theory of Constraints
<b>ADB</b>	African Development Bank

## **ABSTRACT**

Public participation is the basic principle of our democracy and has become one of the important conditions which are essential for the implementation of programmes and projects. Over the years, Kenya has progressively shifted from a centralized to a decentralized form of governance. Despite support of devolution and participatory development process, people-centric development culture has not yet been institutionalized in rural areas. Development practitioners, however, see decentralization as a necessary but not a sufficient condition for involving cross-section of local people into development intervention. Nonetheless, they are complicated to implement because, many times they involve a number of different sectors and a wide variety of actors who must collaborate and coordinate efforts effectively for a successful outcome. The purpose of the study was to investigate factors influencing public participation in project development in Busia County. The objectives were: To determine how training influence public participation in project development, to evaluate how socio factors influence public participation in project development, to assess the extent to which economic factors influence public participation in project development and to assess how governance influence public participation in development projects in Busia County. A descriptive research design was used with target population of 103 421 households. A sample of 400 households was arrived at using Miller & Brewer, (2003) formula and stratified randomly from the 7 Sub-Counties. Data was collected using structured interview schedule and questionnaire. The research instruments were validated by supervisors and peers and pre-tested on a pilot study conducted in Matayos Sub-County. Data were analyzed descriptively using SPSS and presented in percentages, frequencies and tables. Findings revealed that Busia County leadership demonstrates weak decision process involving public participation; identified individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation. Moreover, respondents said there were inadequate democratic social networks and gender inclusion techniques in designing public participation program(s). Level of income had significant power influence in participation process where 15.4% high income group engaged in project activities and only 36.9% of medium and low income groups. Responses also show inadequate use of policy instruments, financial and economic analysis for the right mix of resources in project by 32.5%. In addition, 46.1% of the respondents indicated that leaders did not articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems due to political competition. More than half, 54.7% asserted that there was inadequate accountability in terms of governance hence limited public participation in budget allocations in consultations with all stakeholders and exchange of material flows by productive entities which were inefficient and full of loopholes. The study recommends that: County leadership should demonstrate effective training; strengthen good communication, build democratic social networks in and economic analysis and leaders should focus on good governance through accountability in their processes and systems

to build public trust and confidence through streamlined policy issues that adequately address community problems.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Public participation and involvement are a basic principle of our democracy. The development of an integrated devolved development concept these days without the mobilization of participants in the realm of civil society is just as unimaginable as a lack of involvement of the affected parties during devolved renewal processes. Armitage (1988) defined citizen participation as a process by which citizen's act in response to public concerns, voice their opinions about decisions that affect them, and take responsibility for changes to their public. Pran Manga and Wendy Muckle (Chappel, 1997) suggest that public participation may also be a response to the traditional sense of powerlessness felt by the general public when it comes to influencing government decisions. Involvement or public participation has become one of the important conditions and is essential for the implementation of programmes and projects and also a fundamental condition to attract projects and programmes. However it can also be determined that consultation processes are not equally pronounced in all Counties and communities. In many cases support on behalf of the decision makers is lacking, as political and administrative bodies fear constraint of their authority.

International and regional agreements, as well as popular pressure to open up governmental decision-making processes, are spurring national governments to take steps to improve transparency, participation, and accountability. Environmental and other activists must take a large part of the credit for their role in creating awareness for and popularizing the notion that people must have a say in decisions that affect their lives and well-being. From the 1960s and 1970s, organizations like Green Peace and others have brought issues into the public domain, challenging the right of governments and corporations to pursue interests that impoverish, degrade or damage the environment. In turn, the struggle for the environment was taken up by communities, public interest lawyers and other groups, creating a pool of expertise on which governments came to rely. The recognition that much of the specialist knowledge required to draft and implement environment al policy resides

in civil society helped create the space for new and more participatory forms of governance in the national, regional and international spheres (World Bank, 2004).

Over the last decade, there have been a number of key regional and international agreements on the environment. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, for example, nations from around the world adopted Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which recognized the critical role that civil society plays in protecting and managing the environment. Principle 10 emphasizes the importance of public access to information, participation in decision-making processes and access to judicial procedures and remedies, affirming that: "environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant level. In Agenda 21, the plan of action that accompanied the Rio Declaration, governments pledged themselves to the pursuit of broader public participation in decision-making processes and policy formulation for sustainable development – understood as development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs (Webler, 2001).

In 1998, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe adopted the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (known as the Aarhus Convention). This binding convention establishes minimum legal and institutional requirements to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to obtain environmental information, participate in decision-making processes, and have access to judicial and administrative redress to protect the environment. The Aarhus Convention has energized countries and organizations around the world seeking to promote environmental governance (World Bank, 2004).

In democracies such as Canada, public participation in government decisions is now a regular feature of political life. Public participation became a feature of public policy in Canada from the 1960s and 1970s and, today, decisions by government without public consultation are the exception rather than the rule. There are numerous examples of public participation in Canada. For example, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development was established in 1996 to help Canadians outside government contribute to the

development of Canadian foreign policy. In 1996 and 1997, Canada involved civil society to an exceptional degree in the Geneva and Ottawa conferences that sought to secure a global ban on land mines. At the latter conference, the Program to Eradicate Poverty was employed as a basic instrument to support policies and programmes aimed at transforming relations between the state and civil society (Aminuzzaman, 2008).

One of the mechanisms used by the Canadian government has been to confer public participation rights under specific legislation. The deliberations that resulted in the Environmental Protection Act, 1988 (CEPA) are of particular interest in this regard. Some of the key principles included in the CEPA include: the right to a healthy environment; improved access to the courts to prosecute and to sue where ones right to a healthy environment has been infringed upon; increased public participation in government decision-making; improved monitoring and reporting to the public on the state of the environment; increased government responsibility and accountability for the environment.

In Germany, legislation derives from a number of sources (government programmes, the administration, court rulings, associations of trade and industry and interest groups, local authorities and as a result of public discussion in the mass media). Specialist divisions in the ministries receive and monitor potential issues for legislation, and invite interest groups to attend discussions with a view to exchanging views and information. These groups do not act arbitrarily on behalf of a few individuals, but represent, in principle, the interests of broader social groups. This prior consultation is considered more efficient than first drawing up provisions, which may later prove to be ill-founded or impossible to implement. It also means that interest groups can influence a Bill before it reaches the lawmakers. As in South Africa, the Bill then goes to the relevant committee where it is discussed clause by clause (Webler et al, 2001).

In line with international trends, African countries and regional organizations are considering ways to incorporate environmental governance principles into national legislation and regional initiatives. Local people often know the causes and best remedies for such problems as deforestation or soil erosion, how to find and use plants with unique

properties and how to prevent animals from damaging their crops. With public participation, this knowledge and these skills and resources can be mobilized to increase the effectiveness of government initiatives. Equally, when people are allowed to take part in assessing problems, resources and opportunities, they acquire information and enhance their awareness of factors affecting their lives. Thus, public participation encourages people to take more responsibility for their actions and puts pressure on governments to address environmental issues more explicitly and effectively (World Bank, 2004).

Although public participation in decision-making is on the increase in Africa, there is a serious need to promote the access of women and youth to decision-making processes. Public participation in the state of the environment reporting process in such countries as Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe illustrates how all stakeholders can be involved in decision-making. The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation is another example of the trend towards public participation (Legal Resources Foundation Trust, 2009).

Over the years, Kenya has progressively shifted from a centralized to a decentralized form of governance. This paradigm shift was precipitated by the shortfalls that are often characteristic of highly centralized systems. The shortfalls include administrative bureaucracies and inefficiencies, misappropriation of public resources and the marginalization of local communities in development processes. Consequently in the late 1990s, the government began the devolvement of specific funds and decision making authority to the districts, local authority and constituency levels (Legal Resources Foundation Trust, 2009). The promulgation of the New Constitution in August 2010 provides a strong legal foundation for the enhancement of participatory governance through devolved structures at county level. This is an important milestone, but it is critical at this stage of the design process to take stock of the empirical findings of research and counsel of practitioners

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Inevitably, governments are the biggest "spenders" world-wide (World Bank, 2007). The figure, varies from Country to Country, but according to various sources (for example Knight *et al.*, 2011a) government spending on public services accounts for anywhere between 15-45% of GDP. The sheer amount of this spending has a huge impact on the economy. In any developing Country, projects are the backbone of local development. Development projects are undertaken to improve the livelihood of the community. Effective management of development projects depends primarily on proper project selection, project design, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, values, norms, social belief and opinions of the local people which are affected directly or indirectly by development interventions should also be considered. Otherwise, sustainability of development projects may generally be questioned (Khwaja, 2004).

Active citizen participation underpins a democratic and inclusive society. The artery of a healthy liberal democracy is the participation of citizens in decision making and project development. Lack of participation is a missed opportunity for Kenyans to hold their leaders to account and to influence the outcomes. After the promulgation of the constitution Kenyans participation in public fora and project development is increasing .However this is not the case in all County Governments where public participation is still very low. Sustained public participation and project implementation, poses numerous problems to planners and social service providers, especially in developing countries. In addition project beneficiaries are still not fully participating in the identification, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of projects that are meant to improve their lot (Blackman, 2003).

Even though participatory practice has not yet been cultured properly to the people, participatory rural community development projects have become increasingly popular in the last 40 years. These types of projects promise to improve efficiency, sustainability, and democratization. Nonetheless, they are complicated to implement because, many times they involve a number of different sectors and a wide variety of actors who must collaborate and coordinate efforts effectively for a successful outcome. In addition, a lack of effective

structures for people's participation has been a major constraint upon more widespread development. People's participation in their own projects has not yet attained the acceptable levels that qualify to imply full participation (Rural Communities Impacting Policy, 2002). In the public participation discourse, where a project failed to involve the community, the likelihood of project functioning to logical end is limited; is this case in Busia County? According to a report by the Society for International Development [2016], most County Governments did not provide platforms for active citizen participation. Without active public participation in project development decisions made by a few often deny the majority their rights to influence project development.

It is from this backdrop that some questions may subsequently arise in the mind of development practitioners; does the existing decision making process of many devolved Governments and partners promote people's participation in project development process? What are the factors that influence the participatory process of the locals in these development projects? Therefore, the current study investigated into the factors that influence public participation in project development in Busia County.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to examine the factors that influence public participation in project development in Busia County.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To determine how training influences public participation in project development in Busia County.
2. To evaluate how social factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County
3. To assess the extent to which economic factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County.
4. To assess how governance influences public participation in development projects in Busia County

### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. How does training influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
2. In what ways do social factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
3. To what extent do economic factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
4. How does governance influence public participation in project development in Busia County?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study focused on factors influencing public participation in development projects. Participatory development at local level has been an increasing concern for policy-makers as well as practitioners hence this study has great importance to different stakeholders. The study might help in providing a proposal for addressing the problems facing the public in development projects for the delivery of good services as a way of improving service delivery. Study findings and detailed analysis, might help to bring out the latest scenarios of development and Governance at the grassroots level. It may further help the policymakers identify the loopholes, if any, in the present system and thereby assist them to formulate proper policies in future.

### **1.7 Basic Assumptions of the Study**

Assumptions are conditions or events that the researcher takes for granted although they might affect the outcome of the research. These could be beliefs or ideas that one holds to be true without any evidence. Therefore the study assumed that: There is a homogeneous structure of the public and County Government of Busia especially with regard to the public participation and involvement in project development and all locals are interacting people based on mutual dependence and concerns. The attainments of the objectives of project development in developed Governments are purely a function of public participation and also of external factors such as intra and inter Government relations (co-operate responsibility).

### **1.8 Delimitations of the study**

The study was delimited to Busia County on factors influencing public participation in project development. This is because of very high poverty level at 64.2 per cent compared to national poverty level of 45.9 per cent. This poverty level is very high by any standards and requires concerted efforts by all stakeholders in the County to address this menace (KDHS 2009).

### **1.9 Limitations of the study**

Given the fact that the study covered a number of Households who are heterogeneous in nature and in terms of literacy level, social class, political affiliations, cultural backgrounds and different geographical demarcation, the respondents were likely to base their responses on these factors. This may not provide uniformity of responses on a similar issue. Therefore, this could in turn affect the internal validity of data collected and hence the results could not be generalized. The problem was neutralized by using researcher administered questionnaire that combined both structured and unstructured questions. Additionally, the inherent 'fear of unknown' especially in Kenya where people are not used to researchers may also have limited data collected. To overcome this respondent effect, the researcher assured confidentiality of their responses and the intention of the research was purely academic.

### **1.10 Definition of Terms**

#### **Public Participation in project development**

A process by which citizen's act in response to public concerns, voice their opinions about decisions that affect them, and take responsibility for changes to their public.

#### **Community participation**

This comprises of varying levels of involvement of the local community. It may range from the contribution of cash and labour to consultation, changes in behavior, involvement in administration, management and decision-making.

## **Socio Economic Factors**

These are demographic factors that influence public participation in budget formulation they include income levels, educational level, age and sex of the individuals who participate in budget formulation process (Akhtar 2012).

## **Governance**

Is a process of organizing and managing legitimate power structures, entrusted by the people, to provide law and order, protect fundamental human rights, ensure rule of law and due process of law, provides for the basic needs and welfare of the people and the pursuit of their happiness.

## **Training in project development**

This is the process of passing on specific skills required to perform certain tasks to people.

### **1.11 Organization of the Study**

This Research project consists of five chapters namely introduction, literature review and research methodology, results and discussion and summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations. Chapter one is the introductory chapter that includes the introduction of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the research objectives, and research questions, significance of the study delimitations of the study, limitations of the study and definition of significant terms. Chapter two presents literature review which helps in understanding the existing body of knowledge as well as identifying gaps to be filled. In addition, Theoretical framework and conceptual framework has been highlighted in this chapter. Chapter three discusses the research methodology. It includes research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures, data collection instruments, data collection procedure, validity of instruments, data analysis techniques and presentation and, operational definition of variables and a summary.

The last part of the research project was results and discussion of findings, conclusion and recommendations. This was organized as follows. Chapter four which demonstrates data analysis, presentation and interpretation based on the four objectives of the study. Lastly, chapter five formed summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations from the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the review of the literature based on the concept of public participation on training, social factors and participation in project development, economic factors and participation in project development, governance issues and participation in project development, theoretical framework discussing the theory of constraints, stakeholders theory, Arenstein's ladder of participation, conceptual framework and identified gaps to be filled by the study and summary of the literature.

#### **2.2 The Concept of Participatory Development**

“Participatory development is a process through which stakeholders can influence and share control over development initiatives, and over the decisions and resources that affect themselves.” Broader participation and engagement of key stakeholders, public transparency, and institutional accountability have gained greater importance in the ADB. Lessons learned are extremely helpful in facilitating the successful implementation of new policies and business processes. These experiences have demonstrated that policies tend to be more effective when there is stakeholder ownership of initiatives and new programs and projects that reflect their needs and views. As shown in various studies done by the ADB and World Bank, effective development requires the early and substantive involvement of all stakeholders in the design of activities that will affect them. Indeed, there is high level of quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of development initiatives when stakeholders view their participation as meaningful. In several occasions, a consensus among development partners and intended beneficiaries is always evident on the right of affected communities to participate in the activities. This strengthens the justification for implementing participatory approaches in development planning.

#### **2.3 Training and Public participation in Development Projects**

Another major result of sustained stakeholder participation in decisions and their implementation is the development of capacity for managing difficult social problems. This

capacity includes improved relationships between decision-makers and the public, and among different stakeholders themselves. Also, when done well, public participation helps to teach stakeholders meaningful and collaborative ways to approach each other, manage difficult decisions, and resolve disputes. Stakeholders learn to appreciate each other's positions by first learning about each other's values and interests. Dukeshire & Thurlow (2002) affirm that living in a democratic society means we elect representatives to speak on our behalf at the government level. By virtue of their larger population, urban areas tend to have greater representation in the National parliament and other higher legislatures than rural communities. The greater number of urban representatives is one factor that can lead these elected bodies to have a more urban focus and reduce the influence rural community members have in the decision making process. Specific communities and groups of community members must also be considered in the rural policy-making process.

Common among successful initiatives has been a clear vision and set of consistent goals, targets, and desired outcomes that can lead to changes resulting from successful community interventions (Walzer & Hamm, 2012). Frequently, goals include increasing decision-making capacity, building social capital, and preserving natural resources. However, especially in the field of community development with broadly defined goals, reaching a clear consensus about measurable outcomes and indicators can be difficult.

Once stakeholders are invited into the decision process, it becomes more difficult for them to merely stand to the side and say "no." As participants in good decision-making processes, all stakeholders must understand all sides of an issue, weigh the pros and cons, and make more thoughtful decisions. Stakeholders and communities do not generally achieve this on their own. Sponsoring agencies must recognize their responsibility to help communities build their capacity for collaborative problem solving. Passive strategies very often involve a one-way flow of information from the planners to the public (Kumar, 2002). Persons participate by being told what is going to happen or has already happened. Participation relates to a unilateral top-down approach by the authorities. The information being shared belongs to outsiders or professionals. It's a unilateral announcement by the project manager without listening people's responses or even asking their opinion.

Decisions are more implementable and sustainable because the decision considers the needs and interests of all stakeholders and stakeholders better understand and are more invested in the outcomes. As a result, decisions that are informed by public participation processes are seen as more legitimate and are less subject to challenge. Decision-makers who fully understand stakeholder interests also become better communicators, able to explain decisions and decision rationale in terms stakeholders understand and in ways that relate to stakeholders' values and concerns.

Nampila (2005) agrees that different individuals in the same community may have different interests and may not necessarily want to participate in development projects. With community participation, the people decide, act and reflect on their actions as conscious subjects. The common belief is that involving publics in rural programmes and empowering them have the potential to boost their livelihoods and foster development (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008). Such involvement facilitates the reversal of the inequalities that have been developed under colonialism by helping people to engage in the process of identifying problems and acting on them.

A new project generally represents some form of a change to a community. Typically, 5 – 10 per cent of community members will support the project initially and 5-10 per cent of still the same community will oppose it. Opponents or supporters are unlikely to change their positions. The remaining 80 per cent, called the silent majority, are either undecided indifferent or skeptical about the project. Failure to bring the silent majority on the winning side can lead to massive opposition and seriously jeopardize the project. Various communication strategies can be used to win the support of this group. Open public participation is one communication strategy that has proven to be successful (Community Development Society, 2000).

It is wise to begin consulting with the community right from the start. This helps to bring trust, understanding and support for the group. If the project proceeds too far before community are informed there may be problems with rumours and the spreading of misinformation. To build community support for your project there is need to ensure that the community is well informed and ideally, part of the initial planning for the project.

Inviting the public to express their views and concerns about the project can help to enhance community support and ultimately the success of the project. The community participation process must communicate to participants how their input affected the decision. Feedback is the essential exercise in this regard. Development agencies should create conducive platform which would enable communities to air their views. The community participation process provides participants with the information they need in order to participate in a meaningful approach (Kumar 2002).

In the case of the Bucana Water dam project, the community members should exercise the freedom to decide on issues affecting them and should also realize that it is their constitutional right to participate. For example, communities have to decide on the committee members who will represent them in the development programmes. They also should have the authority to make decisions with regard to their expertise because this affects them directly. The local residents should also be able to express their views at meetings without fear, regardless of presence of government or local authorities' officials. African Development Bank (2001), indicate that offering publics more choice would stimulate competition, geared at making the public service more efficient and service oriented by capturing the larger publics' public interest (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008).

World Bank (1996) indicated that reaching the poor requires working with them to learn about their needs, understanding how development decisions are made in their communities, and identifying institutions and mechanisms that acquire opportunities and resources. Oakley and Marsden (1991) state that community participation in the context of rural development is not concerned in the first instance with how to achieve a totally participatory society but we are more concerned with how to bring about some significant participation in the improvement of the rural sector on the part of those who depend on that sector for a livelihood. If there is little or no room for public influence over the decision, then public participation is not a reasonable option for your project. Instead, you should consider a public information or public relations project appropriate to your needs, timing, and circumstances.

As the level of public participation increases, you will seek to engage the public more often and with more intensity. However, it is important to understand that these are just examples and most techniques can be designed to be used at any level of the spectrum.

#### **2.4 Social Factors and Public Participation in Project Development**

Social exclusion is a concept that embodies political, cultural, and economic deprivation. It refers to a cumulative process whereby different risk factors interact in time and space to decrease the capabilities of vulnerable social groups to mitigate these risks and to satisfy basic civil and economic needs. Research has shown that there are certain characteristics of communities that influence their ability to do capacity building and create social capital, (Mattessich & Monsey, 2004). Trevor (2006) asserts that knowing the community, who are to be the beneficiaries of any development initiative, is critical to building support. One of the first steps is to identify the individuals and organizations in the community who will be affected by the project. There are many barriers to participation in society; poverty, literacy levels, disability, age, race and ethnicity are some of the characteristics that often marginalized people (Oakley & Marsden, 1991). A healthy community embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have right to be heard and participate in processes that affects their lives. The community participation process seeks out and facilitates the engagement of those potentially affected. In every project there is a need to identify those and facilitate their participation (Kinyondi, 2008).

For ushering a balanced development, integration of cross-section of people irrespective of gender is a viable option. The rural society is predominantly patriarchal in which female participation in development activities is traditionally looked down upon. The common religious sentiment is also against women's spontaneous participation in development program. Victims of exclusion suffer on three fronts. Economically, they tend to be discriminated against in labor markets and thus earn less for comparable levels of education and skills (GRADE, 2002). As stressed by Thomas-Slayter & Sodikoff (2001:45) 'women as well as men are key resource users and managers and have different roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints in managing natural resources, both within the household and in the community'. The excluded vulnerable groups of concern to rural

development programs are indigenous groups, racial minorities, women and, in some cases, small farmers and/or landless persons. Various rural development programs make an effort to include the participation of vulnerable groups in program activities and require that at least one of the community representatives in the micro planning committees be a woman (IDB, 1999; IDB, 2000b).

Education is the pass word to enter into the development intervention. Meaningful participation in project development largely depends on the educational status of public people. There is a strong link between development and education. Indeed, formal and non-formal education is the bedrock of a 'transformative approach' to community development (Kane, 2006; Fraser, 2005). Education can enhance the potential for people at the grassroots level to experience social change (Kane, 2006). It engenders the acquisition of educational experiences which go beyond academic or professional qualifications, and it helps the individual to find his or her purpose in the community (Hunt, 2009). Just like in other developing countries, a large proportion of the Kenyan population resides in the rural areas, where most people are largely illiterate and depend on farming for their livelihoods. Hence, to explore the level of participation of common people in project development, literacy rate or educational status has been chosen as an indicator in this study. It is evident that illiterate people hardly understand the nitty-gritty of a project and thus their illiteracy is a great hindrance to their participation in PICs. Illiterate people are often looked down upon as problematic as they more often cannot articulate their demands and put forward their opinions in a systematic way. Hence, their illiteracy is leading them to non-participation. Asiabaka (1990) found that educated women participated more in the rural development program of government (Better Life Program). Education is a major determinant of effective participation in public project developments. The educated people would most likely appreciate public development better than the less educated. If the people appreciate public development his attitude towards participating in public project developments is likely to be favourable.

Furthermore, Onu (1990) reported the importance of education among rural development agents. The educated youths are potent agents in development in many rural and urban

communities. Participation also occurs in a setting where a diversity of voices are heard in order to explore problems , test solutions and make changes to the policies when the community find flaws. Brandt cited in Kazemek (2004), views literacy as a combination of individual and economic development. Education is seen as an instrument for mobilizing social and economic change. Unfortunately, this is not the case in rural areas where development is indeed an ‘anti-politics machine’ (Ferguson, 1994), the claim is that participation provides a remarkably efficient means of greasing its wheels where the dominant elite dominate the poor. Educational levels are highly significant in the extent, intensity and pattern of participation. They further stated that participation increases with education, but beyond the high school level the increase is greatest in non-church-related organizations. It was further expressed that effective participation obviously requires communicative and human relational skills which must be learned; hence those who are better educated would be better empowered for participation because their attitude would likely be favorable.

Societies in poor rural areas are not necessarily homogeneous nor are they fully transparent and accountable to all population segments. They will have differences in class, gender, race/ethnicity, religion, and vulnerability (extreme poverty, agedness, physical and mental disabilities and debilitating diseases such as HIV/AIDS). Ekong (2003) reported that age is more often used as a tenable criterion for some social status than education. Politico-cultural factors are also responsible for constraining participation of people in projects run by local government. Likewise, socio-economic factors, political backgrounds of stakeholders have been influential factor in shaping the participation outcomes. Powerful stakeholders, who are politically, socially and economically dominant, for their own interests may thwart the participation of their counterparts (Samad, 2002). In fact, in most of the cases, interests of the political elites and administrators, who run the regime, penetrate the arena and shape the outcomes. From time immemorial a politico-cultural factor i.e. patron-client relationship as engrained in the local people of Bangladesh.

Communities with robust democratic networks can be viewed as communicatively integrated, (Friedland, 2001). This type of integration involves the communicative activities

that link individuals, networks and institutions into a community of place or interest. In practical terms, citizens find it difficult to engage in dialogue with “more rational” scientists, engineers or political or corporate elites. The problem is compounded when there is technical arrogance or limited receptivity to local voices. For example, many local newspapers and television stations are corporately owned. It is therefore difficult to hear local voices, for they are filtered through more dominant perspectives.

## **2.5 Economic Factors and Participation in Project Development**

Communities that are successful in economic development devote the appropriate resources to the effort, design good programs, and stay with them for the long-haul. Over time a good economic development program pays dividends. Economic factors enhance economic development which is the process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human, financial, capital, physical and natural resources to generate marketable goods and services. In a traditional society, income level of a person is considered as an important criterion for judging one’s ability. Similarly, to assess the extent of participation of common people in project development, income level as an indicator has been chosen in this study. Shaffer *et al.* (2006: 64) argued that community economic development must be broader than simply worrying about land, labor and capital. This broader dimension includes public capital, technology and innovation, society and culture, institutions, and the decision-making capacity of the community.

The participation of local people in the implementation of projects brings stiff competition for a limited number of new or expanded facilities and opportunities in a given year within the project parameter. Some communities may realize that another way to create jobs is to work with project developers already in the area to maximize the likelihood that, if they need to expand existing operations or start new ones, they would do so in the community and not elsewhere. Even if an expansion is not involved, some businesses may relocate their operations to other areas for “pull” or “push” reasons (Pittman 2007). They may relocate to be closer to their customers, closer to natural resources, or for any number of strategic business reasons (“pull”). Although communities cannot influence most pull factors, they can act to mitigate many push factors. If the problem is labor, they can establish labor

training programs. If the problem is high taxes, they can grant tax incentives in return for creating new jobs, (Entergy, 2005).

There is a general assumption that higher the income levels the higher the participation. In a study by Phillip & Abdillahi (2003) reported that relatively high level of participation depends on the household income earned per month. Therefore, a decrease in household income per month is associated with a decrease in the level of community participation in projects in terms of monetary contribution. In any case, poverty and its many behavioral consequences can be a strong limitation for the stimulation of public participation in development projects. As a result, it can be said that lower income level affects participation. Economic condition of people also determines their active participation in projects run by County Government. Economically strong people often make alliances with the elected representatives and exploit their positions to ensure mutual gains. It may be inferred from their proposition that the better-off people in society in terms of economy easily get participation in various government run programs because their social identity is the prosperity and the social prestige they hold in the society. Moreover, they are key influential persons in the society in absence of who hinder the implementation of government run program and policies.

Too often, financing is seen as the sole responsibility of the donor agency and local revolving funds are viewed as political patronage and thus arrears become unsustainably high (Guadgani *et al.*, 2000). The internal and external environments, in which the local community's activities operate, interact to determine the financial sustainability of the target members of that community. The external factors could non-exclusively include the ability or inability to benefit from current national growth, as well as laws and regulations in place; status of available surrounding infrastructure and services; types of industries in the area; and financial shocks, as well as other external risks (ADB, 1993). Assessing financial sustainability depends on the capacity to meet financial commitments in the short, medium and long-run; manage unforeseen financial shocks, any adverse changes and general economic conditions; and encounter arising risks. If funds are sufficient during the

financing period, but insufficient afterwards to maintain the benefits for the rest of project's planned life, then the project's financial sustainability is at risk.

When financing strategies are in place, and when these strategies are implemented early on (Fagen, 2001; Goodson et al., 2001; Steadman *et al.*, 2002; Stevens & Peikes, 2006). Postponement of efforts to obtain funding to later stages of the project can be a major obstacle to project sustainability (Akerlund, 2000; Marek *et al.*, 1999). On the other hand, internal factors could include the nature of available resources and local community's assets; local community's demographic factors; quality of the organizational resources; continuity or discontinuity, as well as skills, of personnel in organizational structures; capacity to absorb financial shocks with some degree of flexibility and take advantage of opportunities; having the necessary systems in place to operate efficiently, including appropriate technological resources, maintenance...etc.; access to market; existence of local financial measures that sustain risk management; existence of clear definitions of roles and responsibilities for avoidance of institutional conflicts; and degree of linkages with well-established institutions including private sector companies and/or civil society organizations. Unless such factors are taken into account, economic benefits will not be sustained and this explains why most groups begin to work on sustainability because a funding source is ending. They often focus so much on replacing that funding, they don't question whether or not the policy strategy is worth sustaining.

## **2.6 Governance and Public Participation in Project Development**

Governance is about power, relationships and accountability, a process in which communities communicate their interests, their input is absorbed, decisions are taken and implemented, and decision makers are held accountable. According to Galadima (1998), governance is a process of organizing and managing legitimate power structures, entrusted by the people, to provide law and order, protect fundamental human rights, ensure rule of law and due process of law, provide for the basic needs and welfare of the people and the pursuit of their happiness. The key principles of good governance as applied in the public interests include strong commitment to integrity, ethical values, and the rule of law; and openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement. Good governance is an issue for all

individuals, agencies and organizations (state, private sector and civil society) that hold power in making decisions affecting access to rights. Governance is —good when it ensures that political, social and economic priorities of the communities who aspire for development change are based on a broader consensus in society, and that the voices of all are heard in decision-making over allocation of resources.

Ever since participation entered mainstream development discourse, critics have attacked it as form of political control. If development is indeed an ‘anti-politics machine’ (Ferguson, 1994), the claim is that participation provides a remarkably efficient means of greasing its wheels. But do participatory practices and discourse necessarily represent the de-politicization of development? On ‘de-politicization’ critique, he argued that participation may indeed be a form of ‘subjection’, and its consequences are not predetermined and its subjects are never completely controlled. Second, participatory development’s ability opens up new spaces for political action, arguing that celebrations of ‘individual liberation’ and critiques of ‘subjection to the system’ both over-simplify participation’s power effects. To re-politicize participation, empowerment must be re-imagined as an open-end and ongoing process of engagement with political struggles at a range of spatial scales. Unfortunately, policies are too often biased against rural areas in developing countries, and the institutions responsible for delivering important rural services (such as the ministries of agriculture, municipal governments, universities, banks, and court systems) are either deficient or missing. As a result, rural community development projects normally take place in a hostile environment (Ostergaard *et al.*, 2003). Problems of political interference render local authorities dysfunctional. Most of the time, politicians are of the view that because they are appointed by the people, they are legitimate representatives of the people and are therefore free to make decisions on behalf of the people. As a result the politicians interests end up at the frontline, regardless of the needs of the people they represent (Mdunyelwa, 2009).

Efforts to implement sustainable development have taken place in an environment of mainstream economic planning and market-based investment, in a manner that will not disrupt overall growth. As such, implementation has not moved beyond slow incremental steps to transformative action. The WBCSD argued that there is a lack of leadership and

each sector waits on the others, limiting real progress toward sustainable development. They noted that “politicians tend not to run for office on promises of making the price of goods reflect their real (higher) costs for the sake of sustainable development; consumers tend not to demand to pay such higher costs; business tends not to lobby lawmakers for higher prices (Holliday, Schmidheiny & Watts, 2002, p. 18). Some developing countries argue that lack of financial and technological resources, and unfair terms of trade have plagued their implementation of sustainable development. Many poor people and poor countries do not have adequate access to technology, lacking the resources, infrastructure, quality of governance, and business environment necessary to stimulate sustainable development (Economic Commission for Africa, 2002). While national governments have developed sustainable development strategies and plans, and local governments have been involved in initiatives, these actions have not led to fundamental changes. Chasek, Downie & Brown (2010, pp. 37-38) reported that few countries have lived up to their Rio commitments, stating that National Agenda 21 efforts led to “increased academic debate, heightened public awareness and minor adjustments in the system of national accounts and taxation rules, but they have not fundamentally altered the way we manage and measure our national economy.”

The interest in better accountability is part of a larger initiative dating back to Federal legislation, such as the Government Performance and Results Act in 1993 that pushed Federal agencies to set goals and strategies and to track outcomes (Plantz, Greenway, & Hendricks, 1997). More recently, foundations and funding agencies want to determine that their spending generates significant results (Phillips, 2003). Likewise, the growing professional management practices and tighter budgets in local government agencies further intensified the pressures for better measures and accountability, including using trend data to monitor or evaluate effectiveness (Moynihan, 2008). At the same time, community development organizations internationally have addressed the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, including priorities such as poverty reduction, expanded access to education, and environmental sustainability (United Nations, n.d.).

An organization or government may have good governance if they are accountable and transparent to their people. Accountability improves public participation and increases awareness of knowledge and capacities to improve ability to negotiate as equals with authorities and other stakeholders to promote common objectives, and increase responsiveness to conflicts within the public. Accountability and transparency enhance public participation in public sector agencies, public participation in management and public hearings (Cummins 2007). It improves various dimensions of efficiency including; greater attention to the priorities of communities, increased transparency on budgets and public resources. Participation is another characteristic for good governance whereby the people are allowed to be part of the decision-making process. An organization or Local Government Authority (LGA) observing good governance principles ought to be effective and efficient in its participatory decision making processes and implementation to produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of the resources at their disposal (ACDP, 2002).

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997) good governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Good governance has eight major characteristics: it is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law (see Figure 2). It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is responsive to the present and future needs of society (UNESCAP, 2005; UNDP, 1997).

An often overlooked but important component to community development is monitoring and evaluation. An M&E system can provide a regular flow of information on the performance of policies (World Bank, 2011). Monitoring is the periodic oversight of the implementation of an activity which seeks to establish the extent to which input deliveries, work schedules, other required actions and targeted outputs are proceeding according to plan, so that timely action can be taken to correct deficiencies detected. "Monitoring" is also useful for the systematic checking on a condition or set of conditions, such as following the

situation of projects. Monitoring can also be said to be a management function which uses a methodical collection of data to determine whether the material and financial resources are sufficient, whether the people in charge have the necessary technical and personal qualifications, whether activities conform to work plans, and whether the work plan has been achieved and had produced the original objectives. Crawford & Bryce (2003) argue that monitoring is an ongoing process of data capture and analysis's for primarily project control with an internally driven emphasis on efficiency of project.

Evaluation is the episodic (not continuous as the case with monitoring usually mid- term and at end of the project) assessment of an on-going or completed project to determine its actual impact against the planned impact (strategic goal or objectives for which it was implemented) efficiency, sustainability, effectiveness (McCoy *et al.*, 2005). At least two types of accomplishments can be measured: outputs – the direct and short-term results of a project or plan such as the number of people trained, the number of affordable houses built, or the number of jobs created; and outcomes – the long-term results of a project or plan. Ongoing project evaluation is viewed as a valuable tool to promote sustainability. In addition to achieving alignment of the project's characteristics with the needs of its stakeholders (Johnson *et al.*, 2004; Weiss *et al.*, 2002) argued that project evaluation can help in the development of strategies for sustainability, to follow up their implementation, and to evaluate their effectiveness. Similarly, evaluation can be useful in identifying problems in the project and in facilitating flexibility.

To mobilize resources required to sustain the project beyond its initial grant, it is not enough that the project attains its objectives. The project must be able to document its success and disseminate the evidence among stakeholders (Mancini & Marek, 2004; Shediak-Rizkallah & Bone, 1998; Steadman *et al.*, 2002). Some studies show that advertisement of the project's effectiveness not only to its stakeholders but also to the general public serves as a meaningful predictor of the sustainability of the project (Pentz, 2000; Stephen *et al.*, 2005) in that it enhances community support. Unfortunately, the majority of the programs studied evince an absence or paucity of community participation in the evaluation and monitoring stages. In general about 65 percent programs do not

include community participation in the monitoring and evaluation phase. In the remainder of the cases, participation is weak or indirect. Additionally, implementation issues can also affect the long-term sustainability of interventions.

### **2.7 Public Participation in Project Development**

Participation is a rich concept that varies with its application and definition. The way participation is defined also depends on the context in which it occurs. For some, it is a matter of principle; for others, practice; for still others, an end in itself (World Bank, 1995). For people to effectively participate in any project there is need for them to understand when, how and why they have to participate (Spieges, 1998). For this reason it is important to first determine the understanding of the locals and their perception to participation in development processes. Public participation is not simply a nice or necessary thing to do; it actually results in better outcomes and better governance. When done in a meaningful way, public participation will result in two significant benefits: 1) Sponsor agencies will make better and more easily implementable decisions that reflect public interests and values and are better understood by the public. 2) Communities develop long-term capacity to solve and manage challenging social issues, often overcoming longstanding differences and misunderstandings.

A growing interest in improving local decisions about investments in development projects has motivated economic and community development practitioners to find more precise information about documented outcomes. Past efforts have often focused on recording the number of jobs created or retained and the amount of private investment following a public intervention (Ammons, 2012; Blakely & Leigh, 2010). Public and private agencies alike now want more specific documentation regarding results, so they can choose among alternative strategies to promote local development (Madan, 2007; Moynihan, 2008). Public participation seeks to answer the what, why, when and how questions:

### **2.8 The Theoretical framework**

A number of authors suggest that the existence of a theory, whether formal or informal, is important to project development. Such a theory would include clear definitions of the target population, the needs to be met by the project, the expected outcomes of the project,

and the interventions employed to attain them. It would also include arguments as to how the interventions will bring about the desired outcomes (Steadman et al., 2002; Weiss et al., 2002). Various theories have been explained concerning the phenomenon under study. They include the theory of constraints, stakeholder's theory and Arnstein's ladder of participation

### **2.8.1 The Theory of Constraints**

The theory of constraints is a systems-management philosophy developed by Eliyahu Goldratt in the early 1980s. The fundamental thesis of theory of constraints is that constraints establish the limits of performance for any system. Most organizations contain only a few core constraints. The theory advocates suggest that managers should focus on effectively managing the capacity and capability of these constraints if they are to improve the performance of their organization. Once considered simply a production-scheduling technique, Theory of Constraints has broad applications in diverse organizational settings (IMA, 1999).

TOC challenges managers to rethink some of their fundamental assumptions about how to achieve the goals of their organizations, about what they consider productive actions, and about the real purpose of cost management. Emphasizing the need to maximize the throughput revenues earned through sales TOC focuses on understanding and managing the constraints that stand between an organization and the attainment of its goals. Once the constraints are identified, TOC subordinates all the non-constraining resources of the organization to the needs of its core constraints. The result is optimization of the total system of resources (IMA, 1999).

### **2.8.2 Stakeholder's Theory**

Stakeholders are groups and individuals who benefit from or are harmed by, and whose rights are violated or respected by corporate actions. They include shareholders, creditors, employees, customers, suppliers, and the community at large. The stakeholder approach has been described as a powerful means of understanding the firm in its environment (Oakley, 2011). This approach is intended to broaden the management's vision of its roles and responsibilities beyond the profit maximization function and stakeholders identified in

input-output models of the firm, to also include interests and claims of non-stockholding groups. Patton (2008) elaborated that the stakeholder model entails that all persons or groups with legitimate interests participating in an enterprise do so to obtain benefits and that there is no pre-set priority of one set of interests and benefits over another (Maina B.M, 2013). Associated corporations, prospective employees, prospective customers, and the public at large, needs to be taken into consideration.

This theory emphasizes the significance of the relationship between the top management staff with the stakeholders. Specifically, managers should understand the success of the projects can be influenced greatly by the participation of various stakeholders. These stakeholders will participate depending on the relationship they foster with the top management and not junior workers acting on their behalf.

### **2.8.3 Arnstein's ladder of participation**

Sherry Arnstein discussed eight types of participation in *A Ladder of Citizen Participation* (1969). Often termed as "*Arnstein's ladder*", she defines citizen participation as the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. Robert Silverman expanded on Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation with the introduction of his "citizen participation continuum." Additionally, Archon Fung presents another classification of participation based on three key questions: Who is allowed to participate, and are they representative of the population? What is the method of communication or decision-making? And how much influence or authority is granted to the participation? Though the typology uses examples from federal programs such as urban renewal, anti-poverty, and model cities, it is relevant to public participation in county development projects as we witness community members, county assembly members and other stakeholders having influence at various levels of development projects.

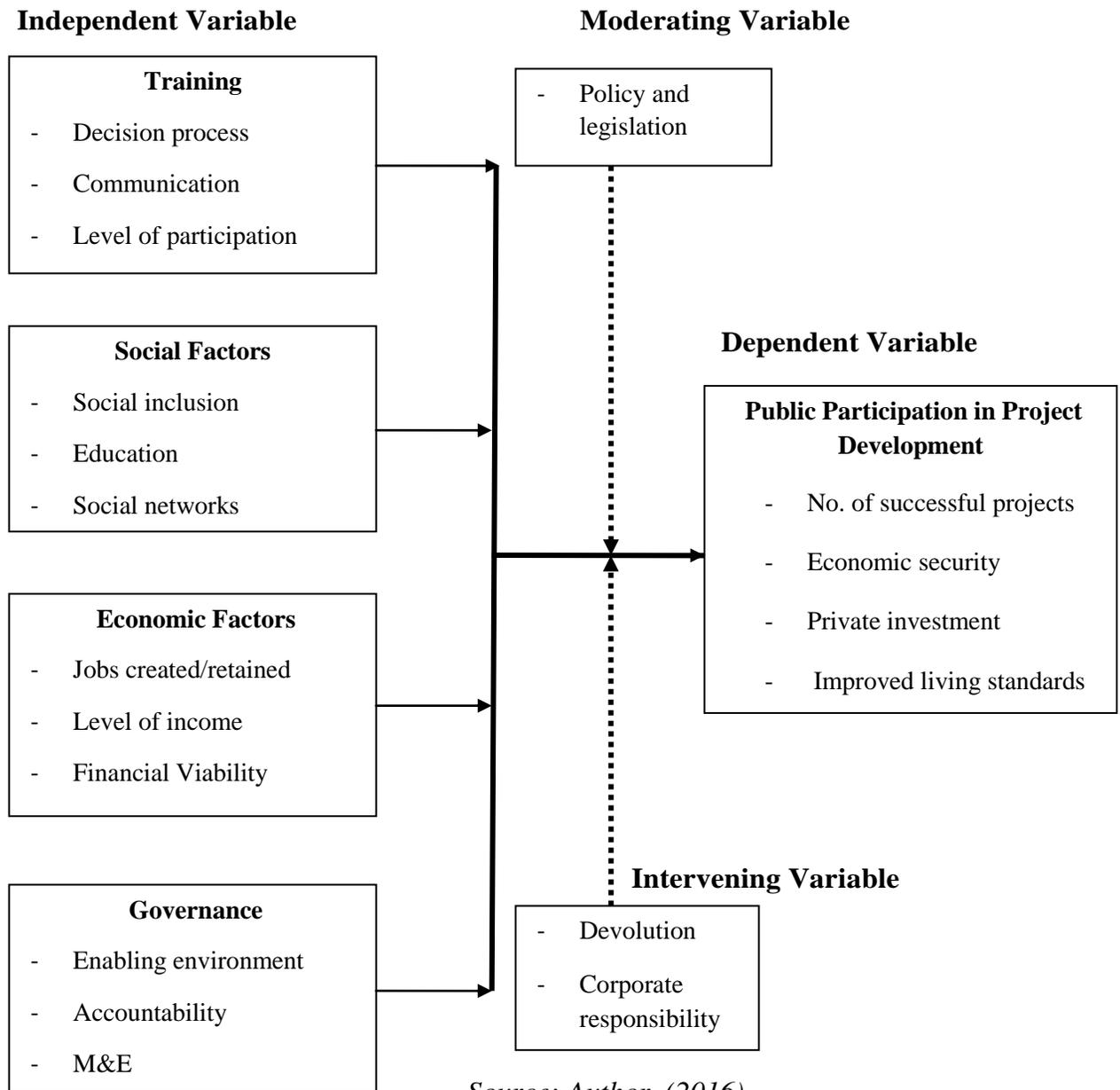
It should be noted that the typology does not include an analysis of the most significant roadblocks to achieving genuine levels of participation. These roadblocks lie on both sides of the simplistic fence. On the power holders' side, they include racism, paternalism, and

resistance to power redistribution. On the have-nots' side, they include inadequacies of the poor community's political socioeconomic infrastructure and knowledge-base, plus difficulties of organizing a representative and accountable citizens' group in the face of futility, alienation, and distrust. Borrowing from the theory, the County Government authority will explain how does community participation in decision making influence participation in project development in Busia County, Kenya.

## **2.9 Conceptual Framework**

Reiche & Ramey (1991) define a conceptual framework as “a set of broad ideas and principles taken from relevant fields of enquiry and used to structure a subsequent presentation”. They contend that a conceptual framework is a research tool intended to assist a researcher to develop awareness and understanding of the situation under scrutiny. A project is designed to pilot an approach, and the intended result is sustained project ideas through public participation. Therefore, the researcher developed conceptual model that served as roadmap of the major concepts associated with public participation and their interrelationships. The synergy below shows: relationship between independent, moderating, intervening and dependent variables. All these factors have to be addressed in order to ensure effective public participation on project development.

It is evident that successful participation of public in project development is dependent on independent variables like training, social factors, economic factors and governance in project development. Although independent variables have a direct influence on public participation in project development and implementations, however, there are intervening and moderating variables which indirectly affect the set parameters of standards and time frame hence impacting on project participation. For instance, intervening variables like devolution and corporate responsibility may influence the same owing to the level of public participation. Moreover, moderating variables include policy and legislations from the government may impact either positively or negatively. Indicators are shown in figure 1 by the main variables under the study to ensure that they are measurable.



Source: Author, (2016)

Figure 1 Conceptual framework showing relationships between variables

## **2.10 Knowledge Gaps**

Despite the logic of these projects and the increasing amount of public participation, implementation effectiveness has been elusive. Many of the reasons for less than satisfactory implementations, such as low commitment and weak monitoring and evaluation systems, also plague other types of development projects. However, in the case of community-driven rural development projects, these weaknesses can have a magnified effect. For example, because these projects tend to be more open ended and context specific than other types of projects, the lack of a good monitoring and evaluation system can prevent rapid mid-course corrections, assessments of impacts, and well-supported lessons learned.

The lessons are humbling and uplifting at the same time. First, “participation” in practice still tends to be very rudimentary due to constraints of educational achievement, technical capacity, economic resources, and traditional power relationships. However, the degree of participation has been increasing over time. Second, community-driven projects do deliver valued benefits and do seem to contribute significantly to institutional development. As a result, these types of projects tend to enjoy high satisfactory ratings when evaluated. Third, the financial sustainability of adopted interventions can be a weak point and much more work is needed on promoting decentralization so as to assure that local and municipal governments have adequate budgetary resources and/or taxing powers.

## **2.11 Summary of Literature**

From the literature sources reviewed, most sources indicate that public participation has become one of the important conditions and is essential for the implementation of programmes and projects and also a fundamental condition to attract projects and programmes. Further, international and regional agreements, as well as popular pressure to open up governmental decision-making processes, are spurring national governments to take steps to improve transparency, participation, and accountability.

Despite a myriad of studies on public participation, the researcher notes certain areas leading to a knowledge gap. First, previous studies have been conducted in more developed economies such as Canada, Germany and South Africa where public participation has been addressed since long, a state which is still not fully realized in developing democracies like Kenya. Secondly, previous studies were not conducted in the context of development projects in Busia county. This study thus endeavors to establish the factors affecting public participation in project development in Busia County.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a description of how the research was carried out to meet objectives of the study. The study employed quantitative methodology as it emphasizes standardization, precision, objectivity, and reliability of measurement as well as explicability and generalizability of findings. Therefore, it presents research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedure, research instruments, data collection procedure, and data analysis techniques and presentation.

#### 3.2 Research Design

A research design is used to structure a research, to show how all major parts of the project, which include samples or groups, measures, treatments or programs, and methods of assignment that work together to address the central research questions. Research design is important because it's a conceptual structure within which arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose (Kothari, 2004). It is the adhesive that is used to join the whole study to come up with a beautiful pattern (meaningful and coherent study).

This study used a descriptive research design because it comprises surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different types. A descriptive survey research determines and reports the way things are (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999) and also attempted to describe such things as possible behavior, values and characteristics (Best *et al.*, 2004). It is concerned with how, what is or what exists is related to some preceding event that has influenced or affected a present condition or event (Best, *et al.*, 2004) and also involves hypothesis formulation and testing. This descriptive design was in line with study purpose as it sought to investigate factors influencing public participation in project development in Busia County. It also gave the advantage of collecting original data for purpose of describing a population which is too large to observe directly hence good for the purpose of generalization (Cohen *et al.*, 2007).

It gathers data on a one-shot basis and hence is economical and efficient (Morrison, 1993). It is also compatible with questionnaire which the research employed in collecting data (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999).

### **3.3 Target Population**

A population is defined as a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). It is the total collection of elements about which the study wishes to make some inferences (Cooper & Schindler, 2008). The survey targeted a population of 103,421 Households who are living in selected Sub-Counties in Busia County, (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2009).

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

This section describes sample size and sampling procedures that was used in sampling target population. More technical considerations suggest that the required sample size is a function of the precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the variability or variance, one expects to find in the population and the statistical level of confidence one wishes to use, Salant & Dillman (1994).

#### **3.4.1 Sample Size**

Brinker (2006) defines sampling as a systematic selection of representative cases from the larger population. To get information about population of interest and draw inferences about it, a sample which is a subgroup of the population is used (Lind *et al.*, 2008). Sample size depends on the nature of the analysis to be performed, the desired precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the kind and number of comparisons that will be made, the number of variables that have to be examined simultaneously and how heterogeneous a universe is sampled. A sample of 400 Households was arrived at using Miller, L.R. & Brewer, J.D. (2003) mathematical formula as shown:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; **n** = Sample size

**N**= Population size =103 421 Households

e = is the margin error/level of precision at 5 per cent (assumed at ±5 percent)

$$\text{Therefore; } n = \frac{103\,421}{1 + 103\,421 (0.05)^2}$$

**n= 400**

### **3.4.2 Sampling Procedure**

This involves how the respondents were chosen. To avoid sampling and bias errors, the researcher strived to obtain an appropriate and large enough sample. A stratified random sampling technique was used to obtain 400 Households in Busia County. Additionally, a stratum is homogenous from within but heterogeneous with other strata. This is because of the different factors such as life stages, income levels, management level, group composition etc. (Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). Stratified random sampling is done when the sample to be drawn does not constitute a homogenous group (Kothari, 2004).

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

The research employed questionnaires and interview schedules to collect data. In researching human beings, no single source of information can be trusted to provide a comprehensive perspective in any study program. As a result it is imperative to use several methods of data collection to improve on reliability and validity of data collected (Smith, 1975). Schofield (1996) reported that using a combination of data sources and collection methods is a validating aspect which cross-checks data. This use of combined data collection methods and sources such as interviews and questionnaires increases the validity and reliability of information since the strength of one approach compensates for the weakness of another approach (Cohen *et al.*, 2007).

The choice of an instrument was guided by how well it satisfies the needs of the research by some absolute standard. The instrument met validity and reliability criteria of the measurement. The questionnaire was used to determine; factors that influence public participation in project development and to assess the relationship between public participation and project development. It was used because large samples of the

respondents can easily be reached. It also gives a well thought out answers as the respondents had adequate time with questionnaires. Questionnaires are suitable for this study for collecting data from large population that yield meaningful results that can be generalized to a large population. The questionnaires used incorporated both closed and open-ended questions in a standardized form that is uniform for all respondents. According to Fraenkel and Wallen, (2006), close ended questions enhance consistency of response across respondents. They may, however limit the breadth and depth of responses. Open-ended questions invite personal comments from respondents therefore “catch the authenticity, richness and depth of responses (Cohen *et al*, 2000).

According to Mcmillan & Schumacher (2001) an interview guide is flexible and adaptable as it involves direct interaction between individuals. The study interviews were used because they are appropriate and effective. The interview guide listed all questions that were asked giving room for the interviewer to write answers and the questions were related directly to the study objectives. Structured interviews are easier to analyze, are economical and provide a basis for generalization (Kothari, 2004).

### **3.6 Pilot Testing**

A pilot study was important in shaping future research instruments. According to Kothari (2004), pilot study can reveal deficiencies in the design of proposed research instruments. The purpose of carrying out a pilot study was to find out if the instrument was appropriate, unambiguous and practical. From the pilot survey, improvements were made on the research instrument. Pilot study was carried out on 40 respondents from Matayos Sub-County in Busia County, being obtained from 10% of Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) of the sample size. Piloting helped to reveal the validity and reliability of the instrument to locate ambiguities and reveal flaws in the questions so that data collected can be relevant to the objectives of the study. Lloyd, P.A (1994) asserted that “even the most carefully constructed instrument cannot guarantee to obtain a hundred per cent reliable data.” It assisted the researcher to improve on the skills of using the instruments before the main study.

### **3.7 Validity of the Instruments**

The notion of validity in an evaluation of an educational program is to demonstrate honesty, depth and richness in data, (Oso Y.W & Onen 2008). It refers to how well a test measures what it purports to measure, (Wanami, 2010). It is the degree to which the results obtained from the research instruments actually represent the phenomenon under study, (Mugenda, 2008). To be valid, the instrument must be relevant to the purpose to which it is used.

The study considered face validity by using appropriate format. This was increased by data triangulation through use of different sources of data to increase the validity of the study. Cohen & Manion (2000) define triangulation as an attempt to map out, or explain more fully the richness and complexity of human behaviour by studying it from more than one standpoint, while O'Donoghue & Punch (2003) explain that triangulation is a method of cross-checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the research data. The validity of the instruments was further verified by pilot study. Through the pilot study, the researcher improved on questions in the questionnaires and related items in the questionnaire met the research objectives. The study tools were given to two experienced supervisors from Department of Extra-Mural Studies of University of Nairobi in order to evaluate the exactness and adequacy. Their suggestions and clarifications were used to improve representation or sampling adequacy of the content being investigated which improve the instruments. For a data collection instrument to be considered valid, the content selected and included in the instruments must be relevant to the need or gap establishment (Koul, 1992).

### **3.8 Reliability of the Instruments**

Reliability refers to a measure of degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999). Before the tools are used in the actual study, it was pre-tested to determine its reliability. Reliability in this case was determined from scores obtained from a single test the researcher administered to a sample of subjects. A score obtained in one item was correlated with scores obtained from other items. The internal consistency technique was used to calculate the reliability index. The reliability was computed using Cranach's Coefficient Alpha or KR 20 formula as follows:

$$KR\ 20 = \frac{K(S^2 - \sum s^2)}{S^2(K - 1)}$$

Where KR 20 = reliability coefficient of internal consistency

K = Number of items used to measure the concept

S<sup>2</sup> = Variance of all scores

s<sup>2</sup> = Variance of individual items

### **3.9 Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher obtained an introduction letter from the University of Nairobi to obtain a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. After this, the researcher obtained an introduction letter from the County Officer, Busia. The researcher then sought appointment with local leader's in-charge of monitoring the community projects. The researcher was aided by research assistants by visiting the sampled respondents and administered the questionnaires. The respondents were guided on how to respond and were assured of their confidentiality after which they were given the questionnaires to fill within seven days.

### **3.10 Data Analysis and Presentation**

After data collection from the field, a master codebook was designed to ensure duly filled questionnaires were coded uniformly. Wilcox (1982) noted that analysis of qualitative data depends on nature of data and conceptual framework employed from the Theory. Data collected was both quantitative and qualitative. It was processed and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies and tables and this technique has the advantage of easy presentations of findings in form of graphs and tables if need be (Triola, 2008). Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to aid in analysis. SPSS was preferred because it is very systematic and covers a wide range of most common statistical and graphical data analysis which makes a mass of research material easier to 'read'. By reducing a large set of data into a few statistics, or into some picture such as a graph or table, the results of research was clearly and concisely presented. All data was analyzed at probability level of 95% or  $\alpha=0.05$ . The value  $\alpha=0.05$  was chosen because the sample size was adopted from figures calculated based on 95 per cent level of confidence.

### **3.11 Ethical Considerations**

Ethics was an integral part of this research study right from planning stage to the actual conduction of the study. The respondent's information was not passed to the third party. The researcher strived to keep confidentiality of the information by safeguarding the respondents' names. During the research, a high level of integrity was maintained in order to stick to the core objective of the study purpose. In case of a respondent desiring to be bribed before divulging information, the researcher tried to explain the reason for research and remained incorruptible throughout the entire process. Permission from the County Education Office was sought before collecting data, respecting and valuing other people's culture, keeping time, respecting respondent's decision as well using a method that was friendly to the respondents.

### **3.12 Operational Definition of Variables**

The summary of how the variables under study have been organized in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 Operational definition of variables**

<b>STUDY OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>TYPE OF VARIABLE</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>METHOD OF ANALYSIS</b>	<b>PRESENTATION</b>
To determine how training influence public participation in project development in Busia County	<b>Independent:</b> Training	Decision process Communication Level of participation	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	<b>Dependent:</b> Public Participation in Project Development	No. of successful projects, Economic security, private investment, improved living standards	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To evaluate how social factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County	<b>Independent:</b> Social factors	Social inclusion Education Social networks	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	<b>Dependent:</b> Public Participation in Project Development	No. of successful projects, Economic security, private investment, improved living standards	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To assess the extent to which economic factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County	<b>Independent:</b> Economic factors	Jobs created/retained Level of income Financial Viability	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	<b>Dependent:</b> Public Participation in Project Development	No. of successful projects, Economic security, private investment, improved living standards	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To assess how governance influence public participation in development projects in Busia County	<b>Independent:</b> Governance	Enabling environment Accountability M&E	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	<b>Dependent:</b> Public Participation in Project Development	No. of successful projects, Economic security, private investment, improved living standards	Frequencies and percentages	Tables

Source: Author, 2016

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with data analysis, presentation and interpretation of the research findings. In the first section, descriptive statistics are used to provide background information of the respondents who participated in this study. The second section presents the analysis of the responses to the specific objectives of the study as provided by the respondents in the questionnaires

#### 4.2 Questionnaire Return Rate

A total of 400 questionnaires were dispatched to Households of the selected Sub-Counties. Out of these 384 were ordinary members while 16 were members of the households also charged with the responsibility of carrying out public participation by the County Government. 384 were duly filled and returned giving a response rate of 96.0 per cent. Table 4.1 shows the response return rate for the study.

**Table 4.1 Return Rate of the Study**

Category	Issued	Returned	Return Rate (%)
Households	384	370	96.4
County Officials	16	14	87.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>96.0</b>

From the Table 4.1, the percentage return rate was  $(384/400) \times 100 = (96.0\%)$ . According to Nachimias, C.F. (1992), 80 to 90 per cent return rate is enough for a descriptive research study. This return rate was appropriate for data analysis and discussion for this study.

Therefore the return rate boosted the reliability of the results since the study was set at a margin error of 5 per cent. Although the results may be interpreted to indicate a very good response rate, a failure of 4.0 per cent to report may be explained by lack of knowledge on influence of public participation in project development.

### 4.3 Demographic data of the respondents

This section deals with demographic information of the respondents. The demographic information captured data on gender, age, number of Households, and employment status of the respondents.

#### 4.3.1 Distribution of the respondents by Gender

The study sought to determine gender distribution of the respondents in order to establish if there is gender balance in public participation of project development in the County. Gender has a larger impact on planning and implementing project activities and responses are stated in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Distribution of the respondents by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	241	62.8
Female	143	37.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As portrayed in Table 4.2, 241 (62.8%) of the respondents were male and 143 (37.2%) were female. The result shows that men were more involved in public participation of project development in Busia County. These research findings are similar to those by GRADLE, (2002) who asserted that rural society is predominantly patriarchal in which female participation in development activities is traditionally looked down upon. The common religious sentiment is also against women's spontaneous participation in development program. They are victims of exclusion in any development agenda. It is also argued that

socially accepted gender roles and the position of females in many African societies have a strong impact on the development of the projects in communities.

#### 4.3.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Age

The study sought to determine age distribution of the respondents who takes part in public participation of project development in the County. The age could reveal the level of commitment and responsibilities they have in their families and how they could support the County in development projects. Findings are shown in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Distribution of the respondents by Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18-25 Yrs	44	11.5
26-35 Yrs	67	17.4
36-45 Yrs	157	40.9
46-55 Yrs	80	20.8
>56 Yrs	36	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Findings in Table 4.3 shows that 44 (11.5%) of the households ranged between 18-25 years, 67 (17.4%) ranged between 26-35 years, 157 (40.9%) ranged between 36-45 years, 80 (20.8%) between 46-55 years and with 36 (9.4%) ranging over 56 years. The mass composition of the public population in the County was 157 (40.9%) ranging from 36-45 years. The lowest representation was old age over 56 years at 36 (9.4%). The mean age of the respondents from the study was 40 years. This clearly indicates that participation in project development was largely represented by youthful population. Ekong (2003) reported that socio-economic factors such age is more often used as a tenable criterion for some social status than education and influential factor in shaping the participation outcomes. For the County Government of Busia to realize the development agenda, the stakeholder approach has been described as a powerful means of understanding the firm in its

environment (Oakley, 2011). This approach is intended to broaden the management’s vision of its roles and responsibilities beyond the profit maximization function and stakeholders identified in input-output models of the firm, to also include interests and claims of non-stockholding groups.

### 4.3.3 Size of Households of the Respondents

In order to understand household characteristics, the respondents were asked to state their size of households and Table 4.4 shows the study findings.

**Table 4.4 Size of Households of the Respondents**

<b>Household size</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<6 People	95	24.7
6-10 People	162	42.2
11-15 People	117	30.5
>16 People	10	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From Table 4.4, results shows that 95 (24.7%) of the respondents had less than 6 people, 162 (40.2%) had between 6-10 people, 117 (30.5%) had a household of between 11-15 people while 10 (2.6%) having a household over 16 people. Most of the respondents had households between 6-10 and 11-25 people by 162 (42.2%) and 117 (30.5%) responses respectively and the average household size was 9 people. The size of a household determines the family labour supply for production and also household consumption levels. With interviews conducted, some stated having polygamous family that contributed to larger large household sizes. Ideal family size is higher among women in rural areas than urban areas. The decision maker in the households and their willingness and ability to share power, and the nature of the stakeholders’ desire and need to participate in development is significantly important. As a rule of thumb, it is a good idea to try to meet the participation needs and desires of key stakeholders when carrying out projects to the target population.

#### 4.3.4 Distribution of the respondents by employment status

During the study, respondents were asked to state their main occupation. The categories used to capture information on main occupations of the respondents were classified as employed, unemployed and self-employed. Table 4.5 shows the study findings.

**Table 4.5 Respondents distribution by employment status**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Employed	100	26.0
Unemployed	240	62.5
Self employed	44	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From Table 4.5, results shows that 100 (26.0%) of the respondents were employed, 240 (62.5%) were unemployed, while 44 (11.5%) of the households were self-employed. In any case, poverty and its behavioral consequences can be a strong limitation for the stimulation of public participation in development projects. As a result, it can be said that lower income level affects participation. Consequently, the economic condition of people in general determines their active participation in projects run by County Government or any donor agencies. Economically strong people often make alliances with the elected representatives and exploit their positions to ensure mutual gains. These findings are statistically significant in shaping the level of participation because (KDHS, 2009) reported very high poverty level at 64.2 per cent compared to national poverty level of 45.9 per cent in Busia County.

#### 4.3 Distribution of the respondents by Income Level

The study sought to determine the level of incomes possessed by the respondents and its inclination on public participation in project development. The findings are demonstrated in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6 distribution of the respondents by income level**

<b>Income (Ksh)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<25000	286	74.5
25001-50000	62	16.1
50001-100000	26	6.8
>100001	10	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From Table 4.6, it's evident that 286 (74.5%) of the respondents had incomes below Ksh. 25000, 62 (16.1%) had incomes between Ksh. 25000-50000, 26 (6.8%) had incomes between Ksh. 50001-100000 while 10 (2.6%) of the households had incomes over Ksh. 100001. In any case, poverty and its behavioral consequences can be a strong limitation for the stimulation of public participation in development projects.

#### **4.4 Training and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The individual skills and behaviors of the project team and stakeholders are paramount to a successful public participation program. There is no one magic skill that will help you to always succeed. However the right attitudes and behaviors are always necessary for success and will go a long way in building the trust and credibility necessary for successful public participation. The respondents were given questions with their rating on Likert's five point scale as **SA**= Strongly Agree, **A**= Agree, **N**= Neutral, **D**= Disagree and **SD**= Strongly Disagree in order to articulate issues of training on public participation.

##### **4.4.1 Decision Process and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The skills, knowledge, and behaviors outlined in this section are all essential for success.

All can be learned, but all require practice, experience, and diligence to ensure their effective use. Few public participation projects can achieve success without all of these actions taking place. The study sought to determine how decision process influence public participation in project development and findings are shown in Table 4.7.

**Table 4.7 Decision Process and Public Participation in Project**

**Development**

Decision process in project development	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
CG does situation assessment in stakeholder interviews	63	16.4	78	20.3	19	4.9	123	32.0	101	26.4	384	100
CG is open and committed to public input in the decision process	56	14.6	81	21.1	21	5.5	145	37.7	81	21.1	384	100
Public takes initiative to solve social problems through confrontational action	40	10.4	68	17.7	28	7.3	196	51.0	52	13.6	384	100
CG shares objective of mobilizing populations around the implementation of projects	70	18.2	79	20.6	16	4.2	136	35.4	83	21.6	384	100

Results from Table 4.7 shows that 63 (16.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 78 (20.3%) agreed, 19 (4.9%) were neutral and 123 (32.0%) disagreed while 101 (26.4%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that County Government does situation assessment in engaging in stakeholders interviews to assess internal and external needs, constraints, and conditions for effective planning of projects through baseline survey, capacity inventory, asset mapping and time banks. Majority 123 (32.0%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government does situation assessment in engaging in stakeholders interviews to assess internal and external needs, constraints, and conditions for effective planning of projects through baseline survey, capacity inventory, asset mapping and time banks.

It is noted that 56 (14.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Government/decision-maker(s) is open to and committed to considering public input in the decision process, 81 (21.1%) agreed, 21 (5.5%) were neutral, 145 (37.7%) disagreed and 81 (21.1%) strongly

disagreed. Most of people by 145 (37.7%) disagreed that County Government/decision-maker(s) is open to and committed to considering public input in the decision process. This seems that the County determines the decision before making consultations with the people. It should be noted that the first step in planning for public participation is to ensure that you are seeking to obtain and use public input and not merely seeking public buy-in to an already determined outcome.

Additionally, 40 (10.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting confrontational action, use pressure to make redistribution of resources to various projects in the County, 68 (17.7%) agreed, 28 (7.3%) were neutral and 196 (51.0%) of the respondents disagreed while 52 (13.6%) strongly disagreed. More than half 196 (51.0%) of the respondents disagreed that the public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting confrontational action, use pressure to make redistribution of resources to various projects in the County. In this regard, people fear and do not take initiative to confront their leaders.

Moreover, 70 (18.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the County Government and public shares the objective of mobilizing the populations around the implementation of projects whose objectives have already been defined by political or economic decision-makers, 79 (20.6%) agreed, 16 (4.2%) were neutral, and 136 (35.4%) of the respondents disagreed while 83 (21.6%) strongly disagreed. It is observed that 136 (35.4%) of the respondents disagreed that the County Government and public shares the objective of mobilizing the populations around the implementation of projects whose objectives have already been defined by political or economic decision-makers. In this system of devolved government, relationships are key and define the ability to fully understand one another and give proper consideration to one another's needs, issues, and concerns. In general, Busia County leadership demonstrates weak decision process involving public participation to influence development agenda. If there is little or no room for public influence over the decision, then public participation is not a reasonable option for your project. Instead, they should consider a public information or public relations project appropriate to your needs, timing, and circumstances and therefore, concurrent focus on product and process.

These study findings concur with others by Walzer & Hamm, (2012) who asserted that successful initiatives has been a clear vision and set of consistent goals, targets, and desired outcomes of participation and engagement that can lead to changes resulting from successful community interventions. Frequently, goals include increasing decision-making capacity, building social capital, and preserving natural resources. However, especially in the field of community development with broadly defined goals, reaching a clear consensus about measurable outcomes and indicators can be difficult.

#### 4.4.2 Communication and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County

Communications help to identify and portray the information that the public requires in order to participate meaningfully in the process of project development. Formal public hearings where agency staff never actually meet or interact with the public often fail because there are simply no relationships upon which to base communication. The study sought to establish how communications influence public participation in project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.8 reveals the study findings.

**Table 4.8 Communication and Public Participation in Project Development**

Communication process	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Embrace diversity, recognize all community members have a right to be heard	79	20.6	101	26.3	23	6.0	99	25.8	82	21.3	384	100
Ability to create clear & concise written messages	60	15.6	83	21.6	29	7.6	95	24.7	117	30.5	384	100
Creates & distributes effective information, meaningful relationships, & listen public	76	19.8	70	18.2	19	4.9	130	33.6	89	23.5	384	100
Created effective visual information to audience's understanding in projects	95	24.7	89	23.5	10	2.6	106	27.6	84	21.6	384	100

Results from Table 4.8 shows that 79 (20.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members

have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives, 101 (26.3%) agreed, 23 (6.0%) were neutral, 99 (25.8%) disagreed while 82 (21.3%) strongly disagreed. Majority 101 (26.3%) of the respondents asserted that County Government embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives.

Another 60 (15.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government has ability to create clear and concise written messages in plain language, 83 (21.6%) agreed, 29 (7.6%) were neutral, and 95 (24.7%) disagreed while 117 (30.5%) strongly disagreed. An overwhelming 117 (30.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that County Government has ability to create clear and concise written messages in plain language.

It was also noted that 76 (19.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government creates and distributes effective information, develop meaningful relationships, and listen to public input on development of various projects, 70 (18.2%) agreed, 19 (4.9%) were neutral, and 130 (33.6%) of the respondents disagreed while 89 (23.5%) strongly disagreed. Majority 130 (33.6%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government creates and distributes effective information, develop meaningful relationships, and listen to public input on development of various projects. Any public participation in project development requires good and effective communication of detailed information. The County should think about how to create sustainable vehicles for communicating with the stakeholders and durable locations for maintaining and sharing information.

Consequently, 95 (24.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the County Government has created effective visual information that assists the audience's understanding in project development, 89 (23.5%) agreed, 10 (2.6%) were neutral and 106 (27.6%) disagreed while 84 (21.6%) strongly disagreed. Most of the respondents, 106 (27.6%) still disagreed that the County Government has created effective visual information that assists the audience's understanding in project development. Much of traditional public participation does not provide for the types of

real dialogue that are necessary for productive interaction and decision-making. Sponsoring agencies need to model the behavior they wish to see in their stakeholders and create the kind of spaces where people can interact successfully. Looking for —teachable moments‖ where it is possible to explain why things worked well or did not work well from a process standpoint. In this way communities will understand what makes a process successful or not.

These findings are similar to those by Kumar (2002) who reported that it is wise to begin consulting with the community right from the start. This helps to bring trust, understanding and support for the group. If the project proceeds too far before community are informed there may be problems with rumours and the spreading of misinformation. To build community support for your project there is need to ensure that the community is well informed and ideally, part of the initial planning for the project. Inviting the public to express their views and concerns about the project can help to enhance community support and ultimately the success of the project. The community participation process must communicate to participants how their input affected the decision. Feedback is the essential exercise in this regard. Development agencies should create conducive platform which would enable communities to air their views. The community participation process provides participants with the information they need in order to participate in a meaningful approach.

#### **4.4.3 Level of Participation and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Identification of the right level of public participation for projects should base on a clear developed goal statement for public participation so that everyone on the team has the same understanding of the role of the public. There are four different levels of public participation that shapes the project outcomes namely information, consultation, involvement and collaboration. In this regard, the study sought to establish influence of level of participation on public participation in Project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral

**D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and study findings are illustrated in Table 4.9.

**Table 4.9 Level of Participation and Public Participation in Project Development**

Level of Participation in project development	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Leaders clearly articulate program’s vision & objectives, and inform the public	72	18.8	121	31.5	13	3.3	89	23.2	89	23.2	384	100
Consultations are made through project design process	96	25.0	82	21.4	30	7.8	85	22.1	91	23.7	384	100
Diverse group of stakeholders work on problem & potentially seek consensus with public	70	18.2	79	20.6	36	9.4	136	35.4	63	16.4	384	100
Effective collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in decision making	80	20.8	94	24.5	26	6.8	74	19.3	110	28.6	384	100

As presented in Table 4.9, 72 (18.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that leaders clearly articulate program’s vision and objectives, and inform the public, perform regular needs assessments, engage in ongoing program planning and adaptation, conduct evaluations, secure and manage funding, support and supervise staff, and provide staff training, 121 (31.5%) agreed, 13 (3.3%) were neutral and 89 (23.2%) equally disagreed and strongly disagreed. Leaders clearly articulate program’s vision and objectives, and inform the public, perform regular needs assessments, engage in ongoing program planning and adaptation, conduct evaluations, secure and manage funding, support and supervise staff, and provide staff training by 121 (31.5%) responses. Ideally, no effective participation process can be designed without first learning about and developing some level of relationship with the stakeholders that will be engaged. As a rule of thumb, it is a good idea to try to meet the participation needs and desires of key stakeholders.

In addition, 96 (25.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that consultations were made through project design process in project implementation, 82 (21.4%) agreed, 30 (7.8%) were neutral and 85 (22.1%) disagreed while 91 (23.7%) strongly disagreed. Majority 96 (25.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that consultations were made through project design process in project implementation. There are four different levels of public participation that shapes the project outcomes namely information, consultation, involvement and collaboration. The County

Government of Busia scores positively on the second level of participation in terms of project development.

Moreover, 70 (18.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that diverse group of stakeholders work on problem and potentially seek consensus with the public, 79 (20.6%) agreed, 36 (9.4%) were neutral, 136 (35.4%) disagreed while 63 (16.4%) strongly disagreed. Findings indicate that 136 (35.4%) of the respondents disagreed that diverse group of stakeholders work on problem identification and potentially seek consensus with the public. This shows that there inadequate linkage of the County Government with specific groups (civil societies, activists, youth, women etc.) and individuals (PLWD, landless and marginalized) to the identified interests and decision making.

Concerning effective collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in decision making, 80 (20.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the group identifies and engage with relevant stakeholders who actively support program goals and who have clearly identified responsibilities, 94 (24.5%) agreed, 26 (6.8%) were neutral and 74 (19.3%) disagreed while 110 (28.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement. Majority, 110 (28.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the group identifies and engage with relevant stakeholders who actively support program goals and have clearly identified responsibilities. By matching specific groups (civil societies, activists, youth, women etc.) and individuals (PLWD, landless and marginalized) to the identified interests, this ensures that the process engage full range of perspectives needed to conduct meaningful public participation.

These study findings indicate that the County Government of Busia engages the public and stakeholders to some extent of level 1 and 2 (information and consultation levels). However, in no circumstance should an agency ever commit to participation at a level higher than the decision-makers are willing or able to engage stakeholders (level 3-involvement and 4-collaboration). The attainment of level 4 of public participation requires intensive efforts of all the stakeholders. As the level of public participation increases, you seek to engage the public more often and with more intensity. These two levels of public participation work to frame the spectrum, but are not actually where most meaningful public participation occurs. After this level, the public participation attains critical mass (empowerment). At the level of empowerment,

the community is self-driven and the County Government incorporated sustainability objectives into project plans during development phase and implementation phase. Therefore, successful community-building efforts are more likely to occur when the process includes taking careful steps to measure and analyse the needs and problems of the community (*systematic gathering of information and analysis of community issues*).

These results are consistent with those by Arnstein (1969) that recognizing different levels of participation, from manipulation or therapy of publics, through to consultation, and to what we might now view as genuine participation, i.e. the levels of partnership and public control. In this theory, public control gives the public the power to decide. This can be achieved through referendums, but since those are often costly and difficult to arrange it would most likely slow down the process substantially. This theory is relevant to public participation in county development projects as we witness community members, County assembly members and other stakeholders having influence at various levels of development projects.

World Bank (1996) indicated that reaching the poor requires working with them to learn about their needs, understanding how development decisions are made in their communities, and identifying institutions and mechanisms that acquire opportunities and resources. Oakley and Marsden (1991) state that community participation in the context of rural development is not concerned in the first instance with how to achieve a totally participatory society but we are more concerned with how to bring about some significant participation in the improvement of the rural sector on the part of those who depend on that sector for a livelihood. If there is little or no room for public influence over the decision, then public participation is not a reasonable option for your project. Instead, you should consider a public information or public relations project appropriate to your needs, timing, and circumstances.

#### **4.5 Social Factors and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The study sought to determine influence of social factors on public participation in project development since these factors are important in shaping the bearing of public participation in development agenda. Findings have been discussed under indicators of social inclusion, education and social networks.

#### 4.5.1 Social inclusion and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County

Social exclusion is a concept that embodies political, cultural, and economic deprivation. It refers to a cumulative process whereby different risk factors interact in time and space to decrease the capabilities of vulnerable social groups to mitigate these risks and to satisfy basic civil and economic needs. For ushering a balanced development, integration of cross-section of people irrespective of gender is a viable option. There are certain characteristics of communities that influence their ability to do capacity building and create social capital. Therefore, the study sought to establish how social inclusion and integration influence public participation in Project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral

**D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.10 depicts the results.

**Table 4.10 Social inclusion and Public Participation in Project Development**

Social inclusion in project development	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
CG set clear criteria and procedures for staff selection	89	23.2	95	24.7	40	10.4	78	20.3	82	21.4	384	100
CG segregates women and youth in procurement of resources	85	21.1	127	33.1	35	9.1	70	18.2	67	18.5	384	100
Inclusion of committed, qualified staff of all gender and vulnerable groups in the program/project	72	18.8	93	24.2	32	8.3	107	27.9	80	20.8	384	100
CG adopts gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development	63	16.4	74	19.3	47	12.2	79	20.6	121	31.5	384	100

As presented in Table 4.10, results show that 89 (23.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government set clear criteria and procedures for staff selection in various projects, 95 (24.7%) agreed, 40 (10.4%) were neutral, 78 (20.3%) disagreed while 82 (21.4%) strongly disagreed. Staff deployment is often driven by political, cultural, and economic agenda of the most powerful people. It is noted that 95 (24.7%) of the respondents asserted that County Government set clear criteria and procedures for staff selection in various projects.

There is every indication that County Government segregates women and youth in procurement of resources for established projects where 85 (21.1%) strongly agreed, 127 (33.1%) agreed, 35 (9.1%) were neutral, 70 (18.2%) disagreed while 67 (18.5%) strongly disagreed. There is every indication that County Government segregates women and youth in procurement of resources for established projects by 127 (33.1%) responses. The rural society is predominantly patriarchal in which female participation in development activities is traditionally looked down upon. The common religious sentiment is also against women's spontaneous participation in development program.

Furthermore, 72 (18.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there is inclusion of committed, qualified staff of all gender and vulnerable groups in the programs/projects, 93 (24.2%) agreed, 32 (8.3%) were neutral, 107 (27.9%) disagreed while 80 (20.8%) strongly disagreed. Majority, 107 (27.9%) of the respondents disagreed that there is inclusion of committed, qualified staff of all gender and vulnerable groups in the programs/projects. The results points to low of social capacity and networking. A healthy community embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have right to be heard and participate in processes that affects their lives. Communities with high community social capacity can identify their needs; establish priorities and goals; develop plans, of which the members of that community consider themselves "owners"; allocate resources to carry out those plans; and carry out the joint work necessary to achieve goals.

In addition, 63 (16.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government adopts gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development, 74 (19.3%) agreed, 47 (12.2%) were neutral, and 79 (20.6%) disagreed while 121 (31.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. It is observed that 121 (31.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that the County Government adopts gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development. One of the first steps is to identify the individuals and organizations in the community who will be affected by the project. Trevor (2006) asserted that knowing the community, who are to be the beneficiaries of any development initiative, is critical to building support.

These results are in agreement to those by (GRADE, 2002; Thomas-Slayter & Sodikoff 2001:45). Victims of exclusion suffer on three fronts. Economically, they tend to be discriminated against

in labor markets and thus earn less for comparable levels of education and skills. ‘Women as well as men are key resource users and managers and have different roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints in managing natural resources, both within the household and in the community’. The excluded vulnerable groups of concern to rural development programs are indigenous groups, racial minorities, women and, in some cases, small farmers and/or landless persons. Various rural development programs make an effort to include the participation of vulnerable groups in program activities and require that at least one of the community representatives in the micro planning committees be a woman (IDB, 1999; IDB, 2000b). The community participation process seeks out and facilitates the engagement of those potentially affected. In every project there is a need to identify those and facilitate their participation (Kinyondi, 2008

#### **4.5.2 Education qualification and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Education is the pass word to enter into the development intervention. Meaningful participation in project development largely depends on the educational status of public people. The study sought to establish how level of education influence public participation in Project development in Busia County and Table 4.11 shows the study findings.

**Table 4.11 Education and Public Participation in Project Development**

<b>Education level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Primary	96	25.0
Secondary	196	51.0
Diploma	40	10.4
Degree	18	4.7
None	34	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As shown in Table 4.11, majority of the respondents 196 (51.0%) were secondary certificate holders while 96 (25.0%) were primary certificate holders. Another 40 (10.4%) and 18 (4.7%) were diploma and degree holders respectively. It should be noted that 34 (8.9%) of the respondents who participated in this study had no certificate. Illiterate people are often looked down upon as problematic as they more often cannot articulate their demands and put forward their opinions in a systematic way. Hence, their illiteracy is leading them to non-participation. Illiteracy is an inhibiting factor in community participation. This is because illiterate people may be marginalized by professional and technical communication during the community participation process. Therefore, education is a major determinant of effective participation and instils positive values that characterize reciprocity, trust, acceptance and co-ordination. Education foster social networks and practice skills such as participations.

These findings concurs with studies by (Kane, 2006; Fraser, 2005) who reported that there is a strong link between development and education. Indeed, formal and non-formal education is the bedrock of a ‘transformative approach’ to community development. Education can enhance the potential for people at the grassroots level to experience social change (Kane, 2006). It engenders the acquisition of educational experiences which go beyond academic or professional qualifications, and it helps the individual to find his or her purpose in the community (Hunt, 2009). Asiabaka (1990) found that educated women participated more in the rural development program of government (Better Life Program).

#### **4.5.3 Social Networks and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Relationships define the ability to fully understand one another and give proper consideration to one another’s needs, issues, and concerns. In designing a public participation program, it is important to pay a great deal of attention to creating the opportunities to get to know key stakeholders and create the kinds of dialogue spaces necessary to build trust and understanding. This study sought to establish how social networks influence public participation in Project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral

**D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.12 shows the study findings.

**Table 4.12 Social networks and Public Participation in Project Development**

Social networks	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
CG works directly with stakeholders to design public participation program	67	17.4	73	19.0	24	6.3	182	47.4	38	9.9	384	100
CG builds a comprehensive stakeholder list	50	13.0	65	16.9	39	10.2	201	52.3	29	7.6	384	100
Identify individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation	66	17.2	206	53.6	13	3.4	51	13.3	48	12.5	384	100

Findings from Table 4.12 shows that 67 (17.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government works directly with stakeholders in designing public participation program(s), 73 (19.0%) agreed, 24 (6.3%) were neutral and 182 (47.4%) of the respondents disagreed while 38 (9.9%) strongly disagreed. In regard to this, 182 (47.4%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government works directly with stakeholders in designing public participation program(s). This dramatically complicates stakeholder understanding and support of the process of participation. In designing a public participation program, it is important to pay a great deal of attention to creating the opportunities to get to know key stakeholders and create the kinds of dialogue spaces necessary to build trust and understanding.

On further interrogation with respondents, results also shows 50 (13.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that County Government builds a comprehensive stakeholder list that address interests and concerns of all the stakeholders, 65 (16.9%) agreed, 39 (10.2%) were neutral, and 201 (52.3%) disagreed while 29 (7.6%) strongly disagreed. An overwhelming 201 (52.3%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government builds a comprehensive stakeholder list that address interests and concerns of all the stakeholders. The County officials do not make stakeholders list in an attempt to find issues from all the stakeholders. A comprehensive stakeholder list is a tool and seeks to answer the following questions useful in project development: Who will be directly/indirectly affected by the decision? Who wants to be

involved or already engaged? Who will be upset if they have no input to this decision? Who is committed to the various interest groups, such as community groups or business groups, and will be responsible for acting as liaison and leader? Who can claim a legal standing (legal rights to...) that would be affected by the decision? Who has real or perceived moral claims that could affect the decision process or outcome? Who has the political clout to draw elected and appointed officials into the dispute? Who will be responsible for implementing the decision? Whose support is needed to implement and enforce the decision? Who could take legal action to block implementation of the decision? Who is committed to resolving this issue? Who will be committed to following the process, including attending meetings, gathering information, and other practical, logistical, and tactical requirements of the process? These set of questions on a comprehensive stakeholders tool list are mere on paper but in practice, it does not mount to sufficient effort of public participation. No effective participation process can be designed without first learning about and developing some level of relationship with the stakeholders that will be engaged.

The study also asked whether the County Government identify individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation. Results show that 66 (17.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 206 (53.6%) of the respondents agreed, 13 (3.4%) were neutral and 51 (13.3%) disagreed while 48 (12.5%) strongly disagreed. Evidence shows that 206 (53.6%) of the respondents agreed that County Government identify individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation. This indicates that it is a must to prepare a clear promise to the public, so that all stakeholders understand their potential for influence on the decision and what they can expect from you as the process progresses. The fundamental question is how much potential influence on the decision or action are you willing to provide to the public? The answer to this question is critical to design and ultimate success of your public participation program. In general, this is not done purposely, but rather due to a lack of understanding or careful consideration of the role of the public at the conception of the project. However, the risks of not clarifying the public's role are significant. If stakeholders perceive they will or believe they should have significant input to and influence on a decision but in the end do not, they will be dissatisfied with the outcome of the process, regardless of how much public participation activity may have occurred.

These study findings are similar to those by Friedland, (2001) who reported that communities with robust democratic networks can be viewed as communicatively integrated. This type of integration involves the communicative activities that link individuals, networks and institutions into a community of place or interest. In practical terms, citizens find it difficult to engage in dialogue with —more rationall scientists, engineers or political or corporate elites. The problem is compounded when there is technical arrogance or limited receptivity to local voices. For example, many local newspapers and television stations are corporately owned. It is therefore difficult to hear local voices, for they are filtered through more dominant perspectives. Societies in poor rural areas are not necessarily homogeneous nor are they fully transparent and accountable to all population segments. Powerful stakeholders, who are politically socially and economically dominant, for their own interests may thwart the participation of their counterparts (Samad, 2002).

#### **4.6 Economic Factors and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Economic factors enhance economic development which is the process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human, financial, capital, physical and natural resources to generate marketable goods and services. The study sought to determine influence of economic factors on public participation in project development since these factors are important in shaping the bearing of public participation in development agenda. Findings have been discussed under indicators of jobs created, level of income and financial viability.

##### **4.6.1 Jobs and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The participation of local people in the implementation of projects brings stiff competition for a limited number of new or expanded facilities and opportunities in a given year within the project parameter. The study sought to establish the extent to which jobs created /retained influence public participation in Project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **GE** = Great Extent, **SE** = Some Extent, **N** = Neutral, **LE** = Little Extent and **VL** = Very little was used and the results are shown in Table 4.13.

**Table 4.13 Jobs and Public Participation in Project Development**

<b>Jobs created</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Great Extent	100	26.0
Some Extent	189	49.2
Neutral	10	2.6
Little Extent	55	14.3
Very Little	30	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As revealed in Table 4.13, 100 (26.0% of the respondents stated that to a great extent, jobs created/retained by project developers influence public participation, 189 (49.2%) said that to some extent, 10(2.6%) of the respondents were neutral in giving their opinion, 55 (14.3%) asserted to a little extent, while 30 (7.9%) of the respondents indicated very little extent. Results indicate that to some extent, jobs created or retained had a significant bearing on public participation by 189 (49.2%) responses. Over time a good economic development program pays dividends to the community involved. Communities that are successful in economic development devote the appropriate resources to the effort, design good programs, and stay with them for the long-haul.

The participation of local people in the implementation of projects brings stiff competition for a limited number of new or expanded facilities and opportunities in a given year within the project parameter. Some communities may realize that another way to create jobs is to work with project developers already in the area to maximize the likelihood that, if they need to expand existing operations or start new ones, they would do so in the community and not elsewhere. Even if an expansion is not involved, some businesses may relocate their operations to other areas for —pull|| or —push|| reasons

(Pittman 2007). They may relocate to be closer to their customers, closer to natural resources, or for any number of strategic business reasons (—pull||). There is always much anticipation among the local communities that as much as possible local labour be employed on the project,

especially to carry out semi-skilled and unskilled tasks. This employment will lead to increased incomes for those employed in project development

#### 4.6.2 Level of income and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County

The study sought to establish how income levels of stakeholders influence public participation in Project development in Busia County. To answer this question, a two point scale (nominal) of **Yes** and **No** was used and Table 4.14 depicts the results.

**Table 4.14 Income Level and Public Participation in Project Development**

Income category	Involve	in Projects		Total
		F/%	Yes	
Low	F	118	122	<b>240</b>
	%	58.7	66.7	<b>62.5</b>
Medium	F	58	42	<b>100</b>
	%	28.9	23.0	<b>26.0</b>
High	F	25	19	<b>44</b>
	%	15.4	10.3	<b>11.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>201</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>384</b>
		<b>(52.3%)</b>	<b>(47.7%)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Findings in Table 4.14 illustrates that 201 (52.3%) asserted that they participate in project development activities in Busia County while 183 (47.7%) did not. The study also reveals that out of the respondents who participated in the study, 240 (62.5%) had low income level followed by 100 (26.0%) and 44 (11.5%) for medium and high income level respectively. Of the low income group, 118 (58.7%) participated in project activities while 122 (66.7%) did not engage in project development. In addition, 58 (28.9%) of the medium earners participated in projects while 42 (23.0%) of the same group did not. It is also noted that only 25 (15.4%) of the high income group engaged in project activities while 19 (10.3%) did not. This statistics indicates that high income group (powerful politicians and businessmen), often control the large poor

population in decision making by exercising coerciveness. Participation programs would imply the involvement of a significant number of persons in situations or actions that enhance their well-being, for example, their income, security, or self-esteem. The —collective efforts to increase and exercise control over resources and institutions on the part of groups and movements of those hitherto excluded from control where there is lack of sincerity of commitment in development projects. Therefore, successful community-building efforts are more likely to occur when organized by individuals who convey a sincere commitment to the community's well-being; are interested in the community's long-term well-being; have a sustained attachment to community members; are honest; and act primarily to serve the interests of the community, not of an external group or being driven by greed/malicious intentions. The assumption from these results is that income levels are directly proportional to power influence in participation process that shape the project outcomes.

These results are inconsistent to those by Phillip & Abdillahi (2003) who reported that relatively high level of participation depends on the household income earned per month. Therefore, a decrease in household income per month is associated with a decrease in the level of community participation in projects in terms of monetary contribution. In any case, poverty and its many behavioral consequences can be a strong limitation for the stimulation of public participation in development projects. As a result, it can be said that lower income level affects participation. Economic condition of people also determines their active participation in projects run by County Government. Economically strong people often make alliances with the elected representatives and exploit their positions to ensure mutual gains. There is a general assumption that higher the income levels the higher the participation.

Previous studies by Mdunyelwa, (2009) asserted that problems of political interference render local authorities dysfunctional. Most of the time, politicians are of the view that because they are appointed by the people, they are legitimate representatives of the people and are therefore free to make decisions on behalf of the people. As a result, politicians interests end up at the frontline, regardless of the needs of the people they represent.

### 4.6.3 Financial Viability and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County

Financial analysis involves examining the activities and resource flows of individual entities (e.g., an industrial or commercial firm, public institution, etc.) or groups of entities (e.g., artisans, farmers, retailers): the standpoint of the entity or entities is adopted. It is one of the key rudiments in projects is sustainability in terms of availability of resources required for projects and the respondents were asked to state financial

viability and its influence on public participation in development of projects Busia County and Table 4.15 shows the results.

**Table 4.15 Financial Viability and Public Participation in Project Development**

Financial Viability in project development	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
All projects initiated by CG have sustained outcomes on —targets“	75	19.5	112	29.2	35	9.1	84	21.9	78	20.3	384	100
Use policy instruments to identify resources as a targeting efficiency	69	18.0	70	18.2	125	32.5	89	23.2	31	8.1	384	100
Design process spelled out financial viability as objective of public participation	64	16.7	115	29.9	66	17.2	81	21.1	58	15.1	384	100

Findings from Table 4.15 shows that 75 (19.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed that all projects initiated by County Government have sustained outcomes on —targets“ among the community members over a period of time, 112 (29.2%) agreed, 35 (9.1%) were neutral and 84 (21.9%) disagreed while 78 (20.3%) strongly disagreed. Majority of the respondents agreed that all projects initiated by County Government have sustained outcomes on —targets“ among the community members over a period of time by 112 (29.2%) responses. —Financial analysis involves examining the activities and resource flows of individual entities (e.g., an industrial or commercial firm, public institution, etc.) or groups of entities (e.g., artisans, farmers, retailers).

Furthermore, 69 (18.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government use policy instruments to identify and use resources as a targeting efficiency of projects, 70 (18.2%) agreed, 125 (32.5%) of the respondents were undecided/neutral to the statement and 89 (23.1%) disagreed while 31 (8.1%) strongly disagreed. It is observed that 125 (32.5%) of the respondents were undecided/neutral to the statement that County Government use policy instruments to identify and use resources as a targeting efficiency of projects. This indicates lack or inadequate use of policy instruments in project development. This is often realized through the challenges of financial constraints which results in instances of infrastructure maintenance and recurrent expenditure taking up huge chunk of the budgetary allocation leaving very little for community needs. In attempt to employ the *right mix of resources*, objective formulating on sustainability of the projects in question and using policy instruments in identifying those resources and how they can be used efficiently must be carefully assessed. Successful community building efforts occur when the process is not overwhelmed by too many resources or stifled by too few, and when there is a balance between internal and external resources. It aims to give a basis for the analyst to improve his or her *understanding* in order to *predict, prepare* and *assess* ‘what is to change’ and, later, to *draw lessons* from the experience.

Far from being ‘a means to justify all decisions’, financial and economic analysis provides a way of avoiding irrational process by which a project is deemed to be worthwhile just because there has been an interest in it from the government and donors.

In addition, the County Government design process spelled out financial viability during formulation as objective of public participation in project development where by 64 (16.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 115 (29.9%) agreed, 66 (17.2%) were neutral and 81 (21.1%) disagreed while 58 (15.1%) strongly disagreed. There is overwhelming evidence that County Government design process spelled out financial viability during formulation as objective of public participation in project development by 115 (29.9%) responses. First and foremost, is the project viable for all the entities participating in it and for the national economy? Will its benefits for society as a whole outweigh its costs? Will the resources devoted to it be used effectively?

These findings are echoed by (ADB, 1993), that asserted that the internal and external environments, in which the local community’s activities operate, interact to determine the financial sustainability of the target members of that community. The external factors could non-

exclusively include the ability or inability to benefit from current national growth, as well as laws and regulations in place; status of available surrounding infrastructure and services; types of industries in the area; and financial shocks, as well as other external risks. Assessing financial sustainability depends on the capacity to meet financial commitments in the short, medium and long-run; manage unforeseen financial shocks, any adverse changes and general economic conditions; and encounter arising risks. If funds are sufficient during the financing period, but insufficient afterwards to maintain the benefits for the rest of project's planned life, then the project's financial sustainability is at risk.

#### **4.7 Governance and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Governance is the key issues in the case of public participation and community building for sustainable organization. The attitude and capacity of local government, the level of community organization, the legal framework and a number of critical process aspects like: transparency, openness, accountability and Monitoring and Evaluation. This interdependency calls for good governance mechanisms for integrative planning and timely and actively informing and involving public and private stakeholders in policy processes and decision-making. Findings have been discussed under indicators of enabling environment, accountability and monitoring and evaluation.

##### **4.7.1 Enabling Environment and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Efforts to implement sustainable development have taken place in an environment of mainstream economic planning and market-based investment, in a manner that will not disrupt overall growth. Under enabling environment, the study focused on leadership and policy issues and their influence on public participation in development of projects Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.16 shows the results.

**Table 4.16 Enabling Environment and Public Participation in Project Development**

Enabling environment on project development	SA		A		N		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Problems of political interference render local authorities dysfunctional	87	22.7	199	51.8	12	3.1	50	13.0	36	9.4	384	100
Leaders articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems	53	13.8	62	16.1	19	4.9	177	46.1	73	19.1	384	100
Leaders elected & appointed are competent enough to deal with public situation in service delivery	64	16.7	115	29.9	9	2.3	130	33.8	66	17.3	384	100

Findings from Table 4.16 shows that that 287 (2.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that problems of political interference render local authorities and County Government dysfunctional, 199 (51.8%) of the respondents agreed, 12 (3.1%) were undecided, 50 (13.0%) disagreed while 36 (9.4%) strongly disagreed. Majority 199 (51.8%) of the respondents agreed that problems of political interference render local authorities and County Government dysfunctional. This result signifies that public participation in Busia County does not bring about a significant improvement in service delivery due to political competition. Public participation aims at bridging the gap between the government, civil society, private sector and the general public, building a common understanding about the local situation, priorities and programmes.

Furthermore, 53 (13.8%) of the respondents strongly asserted that leaders articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems, 62 (16.1%) agreed, 19 (4.9%) were neutral, 177 (46.1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement while 73 (19.1%). Majority 177 (46.1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that leaders articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems respectively. This signifies the type of leaders elected and appointed in the County Government may not be right one for tasks especially in policy formulation and implementation.

Consequently, 64 (16.7%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that these leaders elected and appointed are competent enough to deal with public situation in service delivery 115 (29.9%)

agreed, 9 (2.3%) were neutral and 130 (33.8%) of the respondents disagreed while 66 (17.3%) strongly disagreed. Majority 115 (29.9%) and 130 (33.8%) of the respondents agreed and disagreed that these leaders elected and appointed are competent enough to deal with public situation in service delivery. Critiques, argued that participation may indeed be a form of ‘\_subjection’, and its consequences are not predetermined and its subjects are never completely controlled. Secondly, participatory development’s ability opens up new spaces for political action, arguing that celebrations of ‘\_individual liberation’ and critiques of ‘\_subjection to the system’ both over-simplify participation’s power effects.

The results are supported by Ferguson, (1994), who reported that ever since participation entered mainstream development discourse, critics have attacked it as form of political control. If development is indeed an ‘\_anti-politics machine’ the claim is that participation provides a remarkably efficient means of greasing its wheels. But do participatory practices and discourse necessarily represent the de-politicization of development? Unfortunately, policies are too often biased against rural areas in developing countries, and the institutions responsible for delivering important rural services (such as the ministries of agriculture, municipal governments, universities, banks, and court systems) are either deficient or missing. As a result, rural community development projects normally take place in a hostile environment (Ostergaard *et al.*, 2003).

Mdunyelwa, (2009) also reported that problems of political interference render local authorities dysfunctional. Most of the time, politicians are of the view that because they are appointed by the people, they are legitimate representatives of the people and are therefore free to make decisions on behalf of the people. As a result the politicians interests end up at the frontline, regardless of the needs of the people they represent.

#### **4.7.2 Accountability and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The study sought to establish whether accountability in governance has significant influence on public participation in development of projects in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.17 shows the results

**Table 4.17 Accountability and Public Participation in Project**

**Development**

<b>Accountability in project development</b>	<b>SA</b>		<b>A</b>		<b>N</b>		<b>D</b>		<b>SD</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Budget allocations made are used after wide consultations with stakeholders	52	13.5	79	20.6	15	3.9	210	54.7	28	7.3	384	100
CG systems promote transparency, encourage openness & process ownership	40	10.4	56	14.6	7	1.8	195	50.9	86	22.3	384	100
Exchange of material flows by productive entities is efficient and corruption free	49	11.8	66	17.2	5	1.3	205	53.4	59	16.3	384	100

Findings from Table 4.17 shows that 52 (13.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed that budget allocations made by the County Government are used after wide consultations with all the stakeholders, 79 (20.6%) agreed, 15 (3.9%) were undecided and 210 (54.7%) of the respondents disagreed while 28 (7.3%) strongly disagreed. An overwhelming 210 (54.7%) of the respondents disagreed that budget allocations made by the County Government are used after wide consultations with all the stakeholders.

Another 40 (10.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government systems promote transparency, encourage openness and process ownership in project development, 56 (14.6%) agreed, 7 (1.8%) of the respondents were undecided and 195 (50.9%) of the respondents disagreed while 86 (22.3%) strongly disagreed. Most of the respondents, 195 (50.9%) unanimously disagreed to the statement that County

Government systems promote transparency, encourage openness and process ownership in project development. The purposes of public participation are to promote transparency, encourage openness in government, and build ownership of development decisions as well as programmes and projects. There was inadequate accountability of systems and processes within the county in terms of project development.

Moreover, 49 (11.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government exchange of

material flows by productive entities is efficient and corruption free, 66 (17.2%) agreed, 5 (1.3%) were undecided and 205 (53.4%) of the respondents disagreed while 59 (16.3%) strongly disagreed. *A relationship of trust is built in processes and systems that yield the outcomes of participation.* There is every indication, 205 (53.4%) of the respondents disagreed that exchange of material flows by productive entities is efficient and corruption free. These findings are synonymous in indicating the level of trust and public confidence in terms of governance on accountability of systems put in place by the County Governments. In general, half of the population under study in Busia County indicated inadequate accountability in terms of governance hence limited public participation. Participation is considered the cornerstone of good governance and can be either direct by the public or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives such civil activists, youth and women groups, special interests groups. Therefore, successful community-building efforts are more likely to occur when the organizers develop trusting relationships with community residents.

These findings are similar to those done by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997; UNESCAP, 2005) good governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Good governance has eight major characteristics: it is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is responsive to the present and future needs of society

#### **4.7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The study sought to establish significant influence of monitoring and evaluation of public participation in development of projects in Busia County. To answer this question, a five point scale of **SA** = Strongly Agree, **A** = Agree, **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree and **SD** = Strongly Disagree was used and Table 4.18 shows the results

**Table 4.18 Monitoring and Evaluation and Public Participation in**

**Project Development**

<b>Monitoring and Evaluation of projects</b>	<b>SA</b>		<b>A</b>		<b>N</b>		<b>D</b>		<b>SD</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
CG demonstrate flexibility and adaptability on program responsivity through M&E	66	17.2	72	18.8	26	6.8	153	39.8	67	17.4	384	100
Project analysis document its success and disseminate the evidence among stakeholders on time	72	18.8	80	20.8	42	10.9	160	41.7	30	7.8	384	100
Adequate systems for long term monitoring and evaluation of County Government projects	64	16.7	99	25.8	38	9.8	139	36.2	44	11.5	384	100

Findings from Table 4.18 shows that 66 (17.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government demonstrate flexibility and adaptability on program responsivity through Monitoring and Evaluation, 72 (18.8%) agreed, 26 (6.8%) were undecided and 153 (39.8%) of the respondents disagreed while 67 (17.4%) strongly disagreed. Majority of the responses points to lack of commitment in demonstrating flexibility and adaptability on program responsivity through Monitoring and Evaluation by 153 (39.8%) responses. Successful community building efforts are more likely to occur when organizers are flexible and able to adapt to constantly changing situations and environments on project purpose, results and activities.

Additionally, 72 (18.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government does project analysis and document its success and disseminate the evidence among stakeholders on time, 80 (20.8%) agreed, 42 (10.9%) were undecided and 160 (41.7%) of the respondents disagreed while 30 (7.8%) strongly disagreed. It is also shown that pointed towards lack of project analysis and documentation of success and disseminating the evidence among stakeholders by 160 (41.7%) responses. Time has to be taken into account in project analysis since making an investment involves incurring costs in anticipation of future benefits.

Furthermore, 64 (16.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government has adequate systems for long term monitoring and evaluation of projects, 99 (25.8%) agreed, 38

(8.8%) were undecided and 139 (36.2%) of the respondents disagreed while 44 (11.5%) strongly disagreed. Majority 139 (36.2%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government has adequate systems for long term monitoring and evaluation of projects. These results mean that the County Government of Busia has inadequate system of monitoring and evaluation of development projects. It has limited capacity to absorb financial shocks with some degree of flexibility and take advantage of opportunities of the local resources to operate efficiently. Another challenge is that traditionally, municipal and county officials are so used to deciding what is suitable for the people never mind being incapacitated enough to deal with the public in a situation of public participation.

Successful community-building efforts are more likely to occur when the process includes taking careful steps to measure and analyse the needs and problems of the community. Despite the logic of these projects and the increasing amount of public participation, implementation effectiveness has been elusive. These results are in agreement to those by World Bank, (2011) that M&E system an often overlooked but important component to community development. An M&E system can provide a regular flow of information on the performance of policies. McCoy *et al.*, (2005) reported that at least two types of accomplishments can be measured: outputs – the direct and short-term results of a project or plan such as the number of people trained, the number of affordable houses built, or the number of jobs created; and outcomes – the long-term results of a project or plan. Ongoing project evaluation is viewed as a valuable tool to promote sustainability.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summarized findings, conclusion and recommendation of the research findings based on the research questions.

#### 5.2 Summary of findings

This sub-section presents summary of the study findings of the objectives in percentages.

##### 5.2.1 Training and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County

The study sought to establish influence of training on participation in project development. Concerning decision process and public participation in projects, results shows that 16.4% of the respondents strongly agreed, 20.3% agreed, 4.9% were neutral and 32.0% disagreed while 26.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed that County Government does situation assessment in engaging in stakeholders interviews to assess internal and external needs, constraints, and conditions for effective planning of projects through baseline survey, capacity inventory, asset mapping and time banks. It is noted that 14.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that Government/decision-maker(s) is open to and committed to considering public input in the decision process, 21.1% agreed, 5.5% were neutral, 37.7% disagreed and 21.1% strongly disagreed. In addition, 10.4% strongly agreed that the public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting confrontational action, use pressure to make redistribution of resources to various projects in the County, 17.7% agreed, 7.3% were neutral and half 51.0% of the respondents disagreed while 13.6% strongly disagreed. Moreover, 18.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that the County Government and public shares the objective of mobilizing the populations around the implementation of projects whose objectives have already been defined by political or economic decision-makers, 20.6% agreed, 4.2% were neutral, and 35.4% of the respondents disagreed while 21.6% strongly disagreed.

Communications help to identify and portray the information that the public requires in order to

participate meaningfully in the process of project development. Results show that 20.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives, 26.3% agreed, 6.0% were neutral, 25.8% disagreed while 21.3% strongly disagreed. Another 15.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government has ability to create clear and concise written messages in plain language, 21.6% agreed, 7.6% were neutral, and 24.7% disagreed while 30.5% strongly disagreed. It was also noted that 19.8% strongly agreed that County Government creates and distributes effective information, develop meaningful relationships, and listen to public input on development of various projects, 18.2% agreed, 4.9% were neutral, and majority, 33.6% of the respondents disagreed while 23.5% strongly disagreed. In addition, 24.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that the County Government has created effective visual information that assists the audience's understanding in project development, 23.5% agreed, 2.6% were neutral and 27.6% disagreed while 21.6% strongly disagreed.

There are four different levels of public participation that shapes the project outcomes namely information, consultation, involvement and collaboration. In this regard, the study sought to establish influence of level of participation on public participation in Project development in Busia County. Findings show that 18.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that leaders clearly articulate program's vision and objectives, and inform the public, perform regular needs assessments, engage in ongoing program planning and adaptation, conduct evaluations, secure and manage funding, support and supervise staff, and provide staff training., 31.5% agreed, 3.3% were neutral and 23.2% equally disagreed and strongly disagreed. In addition, 25.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that consultations were made through project design process in project implementation, 21.45% agreed, 7.8% were neutral and 22.1% disagreed while 23.7% strongly disagreed. Moreover, 18.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that diverse group of stakeholders work on problem and potentially seek consensus with the public, 20.6% agreed, 9.4% were neutral, 35.4% disagreed while 16.4% strongly disagreed. Concerning effective collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in decision making, 20.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that the group identifies and engage with relevant stakeholders who actively support program goals and who have clearly identified responsibilities, 24.5% agreed, 6.8% were neutral and 19.3% disagreed while majority, 28.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

### **5.2.2 Social Factors and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Social exclusion is a concept that embodies political, cultural, and economic deprivation. Results show that 23.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government set clear criteria and procedures for staff selection in various projects, 24.7% agreed, 10.4% were neutral, 20.3% disagreed while 21.4% strongly disagreed. There is every indication that County Government segregates women and youth in procurement of resources for established projects where 21.1% strongly agreed, 33.1% agreed, 9.1% were neutral, 18.2% disagreed while 18.5% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 18.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is inclusion of committed, qualified staff of all gender and vulnerable groups in the programs/projects, 24.2% agreed, 8.3% were neutral, 27.9% disagreed while 20.8% strongly disagreed. In addition, 16.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government adopts gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development, 19.3% agreed, 12.2% were neutral, and 20.6% disagreed while majority, 31.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Education is the pass word to enter into the development intervention. Meaningful participation in project development largely depends on the educational status of participants. Findings show that majority, 51.0% of the respondents were secondary certificate holders while 25.0% were primary certificate holders. Another 10.4% and 4.7% were diploma and degree holders respectively. It should be noted that 8.9% of the respondents who participated in this study had no certificate.

In designing a public participation program, it is important to pay a great deal of attention to creating the opportunities to get to know key stakeholders and create the kinds of dialogue spaces necessary to build trust and understanding. This study sought to establish how social networks influence public participation in Project development in Busia County. Results show 17.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government works directly with stakeholders in designing public participation program(s), 19.0% agreed, 6.3% were neutral and 47.4% of the respondents disagreed while 9.9% strongly disagreed. Another 13.0% of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that County Government builds a comprehensive stakeholder list that address interests and concerns of all the stakeholders, 16.9% agreed, 10.2% were neutral, and

52.3% disagreed while 7.6% strongly disagreed. There is overwhelming evidence that County Government identify individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation where by 17.2% strongly agreed, 53.6% of the respondents agreed, 3.4% were neutral and 13.3% disagreed while 12.5% strongly disagreed.

### **5.2.3 Economic Factors and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

The study sought to determine influence of economic factors on public participation in project development since these factors are important in shaping the bearing of public participation in development agenda. Concerning the extent to which jobs created /retained, results show that 26.0% of the respondents stated that to a great extent, jobs created/retained by project developers influence public participation, 49.2% asserted to some extent, 2.6% of the respondents were neutral in giving their opinion, 14.3% asserted to a little extent, while 7.9% of the respondents indicated very little extent.

Concerning the level of income, findings also illustrates that 52.3% of the respondents asserted that they participate in project development activities in Busia County. The study also reveals that out of the respondents who participated in the study, 62.5% had low income level followed by 26.0% and 11.5% for medium and high income level respectively. Of the low income group, 58.7% participated in project activities while 66.7% did not engage in project development. In addition, 28.9% of the medium earners participated while 23.0% of the same group did not. It was noted that only 15.4% of the high income group engaged in project activities while 10.3% did not. Financial analysis involves examining the activities and resource flows of individual entities (e.g., an industrial or commercial firm, public institution, etc.) or groups of entities (e.g., artisans, farmers, retailers): The results show that 19.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that all projects initiated by County Government have sustained outcomes on —targets“ among the community members over a period of time, 29.2% agreed, 9.1% were neutral, 21.9% disagreed while 20.3% strongly disagreed. Another 18.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government use policy instruments to identify and use resources as a targeting efficiency of projects, 18.2% agreed, 32.5% of the respondents were undecided/neutral to the statement and 23.1% disagreed while 8.1% strongly disagreed. Moreover, the County Government design

process spelled out financial viability during formulation as objective of public participation in project development where by 16.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 29.9% agreed, 17.2% were neutral and 21.1% disagreed while 15.1% strongly disagreed.

#### **5.2.4 Governance and Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County**

Governance is the key issues in the case of public participation and community building for sustainable organization. Concerning enabling environment, findings show that 22.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that problems of political interference render local authorities and County Government dysfunctional, half 51.8% of the respondents agreed, 3.1% were undecided, 13.0% disagreed while 9.4% strongly disagreed. Another 13.8% of the respondents strongly asserted that leaders articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems, 16.1% agreed, 4.9% were neutral, 46.1% of the respondents disagreed to the statement while 19.1%. In addition, 16.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that these leaders elected and appointed are competent enough to deal with public situation in service delivery 29.9% agreed, 2.3% were neutral and 33.8% of the respondents disagreed while 17.3% strongly disagreed.

The study sought to establish whether governance in accountability has significant influence on public participation in development of projects in Busia County. Findings show that 13.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that budget allocations made by the County Government are used after wide consultations with all the stakeholders, 20.6% agreed, 3.9% were undecided and more than half, 54.7% of the respondents disagreed while 7.3% strongly disagreed. Another 10.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government systems promote transparency, encourage openness and process ownership in project development, 14.6% agreed, 1.8% of the respondents were undecided and half, 50.9% of the respondents disagreed while 22.3% strongly disagreed. Moreover, 11.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government exchange of material flows by productive entities is efficient and corruption free, 17.2% agreed, 1.3% were undecided and more than half, 53.4% of the respondents disagreed while 16.3% strongly disagreed.

Finally, the study sought to establish significant influence of monitoring and evaluation on public participation in development of projects in Busia County. Results show that 17.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government demonstrate flexibility and adaptability on

program responsiveness through Monitoring and Evaluation, 18.8% agreed, 6.8% were undecided and 39.8% of the respondents disagreed while 17.4% strongly disagreed. Another 18.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government does project analysis and document its success and disseminate the evidence among stakeholders on time, 20.8% agreed, 10.9% were undecided and 41.7% of the respondents disagreed while 7.8% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 16.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government has adequate systems for long term monitoring and evaluation of projects, 25.8% agreed, 8.8% were undecided and 36.2% of the respondents disagreed while 11.5% strongly disagreed.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

As portrayed in the study, more than half, 62.8% of the respondents were male and 37.2% were female with a mean age of 40 years. The result points to more men and an average of youthful population involved in public participation of project development in Busia County. Moreover, 62.5% of the respondents were unemployed and 74.5% were low income earners.

1. In general, Busia County leadership demonstrates weak decision process involving public participation, inadequate communication of detailed information and insufficient systematic gathering of information and analysis of community issues in order to influence development agenda.
2. Inadequate democratic networks with stakeholders in designing public participation program(s) and gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development although County Government identified individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation.
3. Level of income has significant power influence in participation process, often control of the large poor population by powerful individuals in decision making by exercising coerciveness. However, there was lack or inadequate use of policy instruments, financial and economic analysis for the right mix of resources to enhance project sustainability in project development in Busia County
4. Leaders did not articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems which signify that public participation in Busia County does not bring about a significant

improvement in service delivery due to political competition. Half of the population under study in Busia County indicated inadequate accountability in terms of governance hence limited public participation in budget allocations in consultations with all the stakeholders and exchange of material flows by productive entities which were inefficient and full of loopholes.

### **Recommendations**

The study recommends that:

1. The County leadership should demonstrate effective training; strengthen good communication in public engagement and enhance sufficient systematic gathering of information and analysis of community issues in order to influence development agenda.
2. Building of democratic social networks with stakeholders in designing public participation program(s) and gender analysis techniques to help prospects for sustainable development in public participation.
3. The County Government should concurrently focus on product and process by use of policy instruments, financial and economic analysis for the right mix of resources to enhance project sustainability.
4. Leaders should also focus on good governance through accountability in their processes and systems to build public trust and confidence through streamlined policy issues that adequately address community problems which enhance efficient exchange of material flows by productive entities.

### **Suggestions for further Study**

Due to limited time, the study recommends other studies to be carried on the following areas:

1. Other similar studies to be carried out in other counties to compare and generalize the study findings.
2. Determinants of project sustainability and public participation.
3. Influence of Community Driven Approach (CDA) on service delivery.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX I: TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Dear Respondent,

#### **RE: FILLING OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am a postgraduate student at University of Nairobi carrying out a Research Project on Factors influencing public participation in project development in Busia County, Kenya. You have been sampled for the study and therefore I humbly request you to kindly respond to the questions asked as sincerely and accurately. The ultimate goal of the study is to provide insights into the aspect of public participation in projects in sustaining development agenda of the County. I am assuring you that the information you give will be treated with utmost confidence and will only be used for the purpose of this study. To assist in concealing your identity I request you do not write your name or anything that can lead to the revelation of your identity.

I will be very grateful for your co-operation.

Thank you in advance,

Yours Faithfully,

Robert Papa

## APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

I am a student from UoN. Kindly take some time to fill this questionnaire. The questionnaire is to facilitate a research on *“Factors influencing public participation in project development in Busia County, Kenya”* The research findings will be used for informing policy makers, educationists and stakeholders on influence of public participation in Project development.

**Please respond by ticking in the brackets provided and fill in the blank spaces where necessary**

### **SECTION A: Bio Data of the Respondent**

1. What is your constituent?

Matayos [  ] Teso North [  ] Teso South [  ] Nambale [  ] Butula [  ]  
Funyula [  ] Budalangi [  ]

2. Designation..... Gender.....

3. Please indicate the highest level of your academic qualification.

Primary [  ] Secondary [  ] Diploma [  ] Degree [  ] Postgraduate Degree [  ]  
Any other [*Indicate*.....]

4. Have you ever participated in any project development? Yes [  ] No [  ] If Yes, how long have you participated? [.....]Years

5. Please indicate your age bracket

18-25 Yrs [  ] 26-35 Yrs [  ] 36-45 Yrs [  ] 46-55 Yrs [  ] > 56 Yrs [  ]

6. Indicate the number of Households you have

< 6 people [  ] 6-10 people [  ] 11-15 people [  ] >15 people [  ]

7. Please indicate your monthly salary

< 25,000 [  ] 25,001-50,000 [  ] 50,001-100,000 [  ] >100,001 [  ]

8. Please indicate your employment status

Employed [  ] Unemployed [  ] Self-employed [  ]

**SECTION B: How does training influence Public Participation of project development in Busia County?**

This section seeks to find out the extent to which training influence project development in Busia County. Kindly respond to the following statements. Each statement is rated on a 5 point scale as **1=SD**: Strongly Disagree, **2=D**: Disagree, **3=N**: Neutral, **4=A**: Agree and **5=SA**: Strongly Agree

<b>NO</b>	<b>How does training influence Public Participation of project development in Busia County?</b>	<b>1=SD</b>	<b>2=D</b>	<b>3=N</b>	<b>4=A</b>	<b>5=SA</b>
9.	The County Government/decision-maker(s) is open to and committed to considering public input in the decision process					
10.	There is internal public participation capability and County has developed an additional training programmes					
11.	<i>Situation Assessment</i> ; County Government engage in stakeholder interviews to assess internal and external needs, constraints, and conditions for effective planning of projects through baseline survey, capacity inventory, asset mapping and time banks					
12.	The public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting confrontational action, use pressure to make redistribution of resources to various projects in county					
13.	The County Government and public shares the objective of mobilizing the populations around the implementation of a project whose objectives have already been defined by political or economic decision-makers					
14.	The County embraces clear, defined opportunity for the public to influence the decision in project development					
15.	The County has commitment to fully consider public input in decision making in project development					
16.	The County Government engages full range of stakeholders from the community & focus on building relationships between and among stakeholders					
17.	The County embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives					
18.	The County incorporates <i>sustainability objectives</i> into project plans during the development phase and implementation phase					
19.	<i>Effective writing</i> ; The County Government has ability to create clear and concise written messages in plain language.					
20.	County Government has created and distributes effective information, develop meaningful relationships, and listen to public input on development of various projects					
21.	County Government has created effective visual information that assists the audience's understanding in					

	project development					
22.	County Government has enhanced development of the surrounding community's capacity (i.e., access to knowledge, skills, and resources) to support program activities					
23.	<i>Effective collaboration</i> —the group identifies and engage with relevant stakeholders who actively support program goals and who have clearly identified responsibilities					
24.	<i>Leadership competence- Leaders clearly articulate a program's vision and objectives, perform regular needs assessments, engage in ongoing program planning and adaptation, conduct evaluations, secure and manage funding, support and supervise staff, and provide staff training</i>					

**SECTION C: Social factors influence public participation in project development in County**

Kindly respond to the following statements. Each statement is rated on a 5 point scale as shown below. **1=SD:** Strongly Disagree, **2=D:** Disagree, **3=N:** Neutral, **4=A:** Agree and **5=SA:** Strongly Agree

<b>NO</b>	<b>How do social factors influence public participation in project development in County?</b>	<b>1=SD</b>	<b>2=D</b>	<b>3=N</b>	<b>4=A</b>	<b>5=SA</b>
25.	CG adopts gender analysis techniques to enhance the prospects for sustainable project development, ensure equitable distribution of benefits and enhance the efficiency of policy implementation					
26.	<i>There is segregation of duties among the staff involved in the procurement process</i>					
27.	County Government <i>set clear criteria and procedures for staff selection for CDA projects</i> in the community					
28.	<i>Staff integration</i> —there is inclusion of committed, qualified staff of all gender and vulnerable people in program design, implementation, evaluation, and decision making					
29.	'women as well as men are key resource users and managers and have different roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints in managing natural resources, both within the household and in the community'					
30.	County Government works directly with stakeholders to design public participation program					
31.	County Government builds a comprehensive stakeholder list					
32.	County Government identify individuals, resources, organizations, and contractors needed to conduct various facets of public participation					

**SECTION D: How does Economic Factors influence Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County?**

This section seeks to find out the extent to which Economic Factors influence project development in Busia County. Kindly respond to the following statements.

33. To what extent does jobs created/retained influence public participation in Busia County?

To a great extent     [   ] To some extent   [   ] Neutral       [   ]  
 Little                [   ] Very Little extent   [   ]

34. Kindly indicate your level of income and whether you participate in project development in Busia County.

<b>Income level</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Low	Yes	[   ]
	No	[   ]
Medium	Yes	[   ]
	No	[   ]
High	Yes	[   ]
	No	[   ]

35. How does the extent of financial viability influence public participation in project development in Busia County?

<b>Extent of financial viability influence public participation in project development in Busia County</b>	<b>1=SD</b>	<b>2=D</b>	<b>3=N</b>	<b>4=A</b>	<b>5=SA</b>
36. All projects initiated by County Government have sustained outcomes on “targets”					
37. County Government use policy instruments to identify resources as a targeting efficiency					
38. <i>Design process spelled out financial viability as objective of public participation</i>					

**SECTION E: How does governance influence Public Participation in Project Development in Busia County?**

<b>Governance and its influence on public participation in project development in Busia County</b>	<b>1=SD</b>	<b>2=D</b>	<b>3=N</b>	<b>4=A</b>	<b>5=SA</b>
39. Problems of political interference render local authorities dysfunctional					
40. Leaders articulate policy issues adequately to address community problems					
41. Leaders elected & appointed are competent enough to deal with public situation in service delivery					
42. Budget allocations made are used after wide consultations with stakeholders					
43. County Government systems promote transparency, encourage openness & process ownership					
44. Exchange of material flows by productive entities is efficient and corruption free					
45. County Government demonstrate flexibility and adaptability on program responsivity through Monitoring and Evaluation					
46. Project analysis document its success and disseminate the evidence among stakeholders on time					
47. There is adequate systems for long term monitoring and evaluation of County Government projects					

48. How would you rate public participation in your constituency

- a) very Good
- b) Good
- c) don't know
- d) bad
- e) very bad

b) Please provide any other additional information with regard to your understanding of public participation in budget formulation

.....  
 .....

49. Do you think that the project developments undertaken in your locality have been implemented through participation of all?

- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

d) Do you participate in planning of Busia county project development?

- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

e) Were other local people involved in project planning and implementation?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

f) If the answer is „Yes“, how the local people are involved?

.....  
.....

### **APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

- 1) Bio data information
  - Name
  - Designation
  - Qualification
- 2) How does training influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
- 3) In what ways do social factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
- 4) To what extent do economic factors influence public participation in project development in Busia County?
- 5) How does governance influence public participation in project development in Busia County?



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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: Uon/Cees/Kak/2/2/SPF/ (11)

P.O. Box 422

Telephone: Kakamega 056-31038

KAKAMEGA  
KENYA

**4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2014**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**REF: ROBERT OPAAT PAPA, REG NO. L50/77686/2015**

This is to confirm that the above named person is a student at the University of Nairobi, College of Education and External Studies, School Of Continuing and Distance Education, Department Of Extra-Mural Studies, pursuing a course leading to the award of Masters of Arts, Project Planning and Management. He has completed the coursework and is now working on research work.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. Stephen Okelo,**  
**Resident Lecturer,**  
**Kakamega & Western Kenya Area.**