



THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**THE ROLE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENHANCING BUDGET
MAKING PROCESS: THE CASE OF LAIKIPIA COUNTY**

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of the degree of Masters in Public Administration (MPA) in the department of political
science and Public Administration, Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented to any other university.

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This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University of Nairobi supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to my husband Timothy Ole Mosiany, my children; Felix, Nabari and Samingo Mosiany, my mother Eunice Seina Keshine and all my siblings for their patience, prayers, and support they have offered to me throughout my study period.

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ABSTRACT

The study had set out to assess the role of public participation in budget making process at the county Government of Laikipia. Public participation has faced various challenges in that there was a gap in the information flow from top to down, there is no adequate involvement and consultation of the people, and as a result the communities are not empowered, which forms the goal of the whole process. Challenges have still been experienced at the sub counties in that information is put in the dailies and not all people can access the papers, venues for the meetings are most of the time not convenient and the duration of holding the meetings is not adequate as it is held once in a year. The study had the following objectives: how information sharing affects the budget making process, the role of consultation in the budget making process, how the extent of involvement affect the budget making process, and the role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process. Primary data was collected using observation and questionnaires that were administered to members of public, community leaders and officials from the department of Finance and County administration. The researcher conducted convenience sampling where by the study area was divided into four strata. The sample size was 68 respondents from a population of 290. Descriptive statistics was used to interpret the qualitative data using percentages and frequency tables. The Statistical Package for Social Science was used as an aid in data analysis. The study found out that many residents, as indicated by the interviewed respondents partially attend participatory meetings and serve at different committees at the various levels. Various government officers, especially ward administrators, are being consulted continuously on the budget making process. The study concluded that public participation plays a key role in budget making process across the four wards in Laikipia County. The study recommended that; appropriate information sharing modes to be utilized, appropriate mechanisms to be employed to ensure that adequate consultations are made, proper processes be put in place in order to augment public involvement, and to put in place adequate measures in order to empower the public so that they can play a role in the budget making process.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

CBEF	County Budget Economic Forum
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CDFB	Constituency Development Fund Board
CFSP	County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
DFRD	District Focus for Rural Development
KLGRP	Kenya Local Government Reform Programme
KSH	Kenya Shilling
LASDAP	Local Authorities Delivery Action Plan
LATF	Local Authorities Trust Fund
NGCDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCoB	Office of the Controller of Budget

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

Public participation is a process by which public concerns, needs and values are incorporated in decision making and includes the processes and methods designed to involve, consult, inform and empower the public or stakeholders in order to allow those who would potentially be affected by a decision, legislation, policy, program, project to contribute into the process. Through public participation, those interested or potentially influenced by a decision get a chance to participate in the decision making process (Awio & Northcott, 2007).

As a principle of good governance, different countries in development, decision-making, budgeting, empowerment, and in politics have applied public participation differently. In whichever form it has been applied, it has existed in any or a combination of four aspects, which are; informing the public through provision of information to enable them articulate the issues and solutions, public involvement to ensure their concerns are taken into consideration throughout the decision making process, consulting with the public to obtain their feedback on decisions or alternatives, development of decision options and criteria and empowering the public by placing final decision-making authority under them (Kaifeng, 2013). The goal of applying these attributes in governance is to keep the public informed, consider public participation in all their undertakings and consider their input and to formulate programs that help the public to make informative decisions (Ebdon, 2004).

Different countries apply different aspects of public participation in order to incorporate citizen's involvement. These include: budget making, which promotes

responsiveness, accountability, and transparency in governance. According to Moseti (2010), public participation, promotes shared understanding, transparency and accountability in both governance processes as well as actual service delivery. Participatory Budgeting has also been applied by some governments to invite citizens to collaborate public action and involve them to both deliberation and decision-making (Schugurensky, 2012).

Some of the countries that have applied these aspects are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela. By 2007, 2,500 local governments in these nations were successfully implementing participatory budgeting (ELLA, 2012). Other countries that have developed participatory budgeting are South Africa, Brazil, India and United States of America which has led to a sense of ownership, empowerment, trust, and connectivity among citizens and between citizens and their government agencies.

In Latin America, Public participation was used to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in Mexico, use of social media platforms in engaging citizens in the budget making process, role of social capital in promoting the effectiveness of democratic systems. In South Africa public participation has been used in the formation of the National Economic Development and Labour Council, in the formulation of the budget, in legislative processes and in the development of integrated development planning processes of local government in Pretoria (Kelly & William, 2001).

Currently, Kenya is investing more than Ksh 304 billion in the 47 counties for utilization in the devolved functions. The Kenyan Constitution allows budget making at two levels, which are at the county level and the national level. For the budget

making process to be productive, a number of steps have to be followed. These are; preparing of proposal of a spending plan by the County executive committee, submission of the budget estimates to the county and National Assemblies for debate and approval, implementation of approved budget and its implementation monitoring. Evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of programmes contained in the annual budgets is also carried out (Mugambi &Theuri, 2013).

Kenya has also applied public participation in development, governance and budgeting. Some of this public participation efforts include; the development of the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy of 1983 whose goal was to promote community participation in identifying, planning and implementing development projects at the district level, introduction of the Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) tool which was to improve participatory planning, service delivery and governance in local authorities, establishment of the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) Act 2003 whose primary objective was to address poverty at grassroots level, and the establishment of the Local Authorities Trust Fund (LATF)1999 with the objective of reducing the outstanding debt of local authorities, improving financial management and improving service delivery (Kantai, 2010).

1.1 Background of Laikipia County

Laikipia County lies on the equator in the heart of Kenya and in the rain shadow of Mt. Kenya. At an elevation of 1200-2845 meters above sea level, the plateau's climate is typically dry and cool and has many unique habitats including grasslands, savannah woodland, and forest. According to a 2009 census, Laikipia is home to 399,227 people, from various ethnic communities (Waters, 2016).

Laikipia County is one of the fourteen counties of the expansive former Rift Valley Province and one of the 47 counties in the Republic of Kenya. It is ranked as the 15th largest county in the country based on the land size. It borders seven counties namely: Samburu County to the North; Isiolo County to the North East; Meru County to the East; Nyeri County to the South East; Nyandarua and Nakuru County to the South West; and Baringo County to the West. It covers an area of 9,462 km².

Laikipia consists of five administrative sub-counties namely: Laikipia East; Laikipia North; Laikipia Central; Laikipia West; and Nyahururu. Laikipia County has three constituencies: Laikipia West Constituency; Laikipia East Constituency; and Laikipia North Constituency. The County has 15 electoral wards: 5 in Laikipia East Constituency; 6 in Laikipia West Constituency; and 4 in Laikipia North Constituency (Laikipia C. G., 2018).

There are four major urban centres in the county namely, Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Rumuruti and Kinamba, with Nanyuki and Nyahururu being more developed. This can be attributed to the long-time role as the administrative headquarters of the former Laikipia and Nyandarua districts. These towns are also major transport hubs of the county connecting the county to other counties nationally.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Participatory development in Kenya, for decades confined public participation to projects that were mainly donor driven rather than national projects (Nyaguthi & Ayugi, 2013). Earlier attempts by Kenya to institutionalize public involvement started in the 1960s placed planning and implementation of rural development programs under the central government. Some of these approaches were the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy, Kenya Local Government Reform Program

(KLGRP) that instituted the Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP), establishment of the Constituencies Development Fund Act (CDFA) in 2003 and the Local Authorities Trust Fund in 1983 (LATF). The execution of this top-down approach to planning took place at the headquarters of the central government in Nairobi (Mugambi &Theuri, 2014).

Other instruments that have encouraged public participation include; the Constitution of Kenya (2010), various legislations such as Public Finance Management Act 2012, Urban Areas and Cities Act 2012 and County Government Act 2012 among others that demand inclusive consultation, involvement and participatory engagement of citizens in matters of planning and budgeting processes both at the county and National levels. One of the fundamental objectives why Kenyans vouched for devolved governance was need for individual self-governance and enhanced participation in State jurisdictions and formulation of decisions that influence their actions and recognizing the rights of the community to handle their affairs without interference thus empowering them (Kantai, 2010).

The DFRD strategy involved public participation in the formation of coordination committees that were to identify, plan and implement projects at the district level, (LASDAP). This involved public participation by constructively engaging their citizens on matters of decision-making. LASDAP was a participatory planning initiative that involved several collaborations between the citizens and stakeholders within the local authority. This included resident organizations, business organizations, religious groups, self-help groups, health and educational institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), individual residents, and professional organizations. Public participation was involved in the formation of the

Constituencies Development Fund Board (CDFB) that was to oversee the implementation of 2.5% of the Government ordinary revenue to grassroots development, and finally, public participation was involved in the LATF in that there was consultation between the central government and the local authorities and also local authorities and the citizens on which projects were to be supported by this fund. The above types of public participation that were applied in different aspects had various gaps that this study challenges.

Despite the involvement of public participation, in the budget making process, budget making has not been done to the desired levels in the various efforts carried out by the government. For example, the District Focus for Rural Development lacked information flow hence there was no effective consultation. In addition, despite tremendous benefits accrued through community's livelihood improvement through CDF, LATF and LASDAP, public participation in development, governance and in the budget making process remained minimal. The challenges experienced in public participation in CDF, LATF and LASDAP processes were; poor access to information, lack of determination of who the public was, lack of inclusivity for both the minority and marginalized groups. Both CDF, LATF and LASDAP undertook tokenism public participation, resource allocation to public participation was not clear cut and finally CDFA 2003 and LATF were not aligned to the Kenyan 2010 constitution therefore not complying with the principles of participation of the people, transparency, accountability and the new devolved government structures.

With the adoption of devolution the counties have been pushed in the budget making process. Section 174(c) on the objects of devolution gives powers of self-governance to the people in making decisions affecting them. Therefore the budget making

process has to be informed by the people's needs, consultative leading to empowerment. Key areas in the budget making process that are mandatory for public involvement are; in the preparation of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), development of annual plans, the development of annual finance bills to be submitted to the county assemblies, the preparation of the County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSP) and review of the budget estimates by the County Assemblies. To fulfill these expectations, County government have to extensively consult their citizen for them to arrive at a product that is owned by the government and the people (Kantai, 2010).

Despite of strict constitutional requirements in the budget making process counties were still struggling to provide the relevant information to the public, minimal consultation, involvement and empowerment is being undertaken. As a result county governments are yet to realize optimal levels of public participation in the budget making process (Odhiambi & Taifa, 2009).

Further public participation has faced various challenges in that there is a gap in the information flow from top to down, there is no adequate involvement and consultation of the people, and as a result the communities are not empowered which forms the goal of the whole process. Challenges have still been experienced at the counties in that information is put in the dailies and not all people can access the papers, venues for the meetings are most of the time not convenient and the duration of holding the meetings is not adequate as it is held once in a year (Mugambi & Theuri, 2014).

The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate the challenges facing the budget making in county governments in Kenya i.e. how absence of information, consultation, involvement and empowerment of the people can be detrimental in the budget making process at the county governments.

1.3 General Objective of the Study

The broad objective was to assess the role of public participation in budget making process at the county Government of Laikipia.

1.4 Specific Objectives of the Study

The study had the following four (4) specific objectives:

- i. To investigate how information sharing affects the budget making process.
- ii. To find out the role of consultation in the budget making process.
- iii. To identify how the extent of involvement affect the budget making process.
- iv. To find out the role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process.

1.5 Specific Research Questions

- i. How does information sharing contribute to an effective budget making process?
- ii. What is the role of consultation in the budget making process?
- iii. To what extent does involvement of the people contribute to an efficient budget making process?
- iv. What is the role of empowerment in the budget making process?

1.6 Justification of the Study

The study was justified on both academic and policy grounds. Academically this study sought to interrogate the public participation forums held in Laikipia during the month of September 2017. The study will complement other studies on the governance theory in reference to the public participation in budget making. The Kenya Accountable Devolution Programme points key governance concerns on participatory budgeting processes at County levels that require progressive interventions. Such concerns include institutional structures, processes and externalities all that affect quality and level of influence in participatory budgeting (World Bank Group, 2017). In addition, most participatory budgeting processes are premised on development votes, which leave large gaps of recurrent concerns that are prioritized by community members such as additional staffing for public service delivery (Cabannes, 2004).

This study has addressed some of the practical challenges facing policy makers at the county governments in the process of budget making. These include resistance towards the politics of participation, inadequate transparency of the budget information, lack of structured mechanism for participation, that is, minimal consultation and involvement of the people, insensitive legislation of citizen demands on the budget, absence of avenues for effective remedies, and inadequate citizen capacity. Because of this, a majority of the citizens and especially the poor are still not effectively participating in making budget decisions and policies that are meant to address high levels of poverty and inequality that are seen in Kenya. This study explores the gaps that exist in rolling out public participation on budgeting making with view to point out best global practices that inform policy actors for better budgets. The better budgets are further viewed from ownership at the community

levels where inclusivity is key in direct prioritization of development interventions (Public Participation Networks Annual Report Advisory Group, 2016).

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study was limited to Laikipia county government. Budgeting implementation processes for the year 2017/18 and budget preparation processes for year 2018/19 was the main focus on participatory processes. The participatory processes for year 2017/18 were ongoing whereas key 2018/19 preparatory public meetings were scheduled in February and April 2018. The target group were the members of public, community leaders and officers from the departments of administration, finance and planning.

1.8 Challenges of the Study

The following were the major drawbacks of the study during the budget making process: non-comprehensive information and limited means of communication which most of the time is through print media that most of the people living in rural areas cannot reach. The annual leaders fora were widely spaced and provided little chance for feedback to the communities on what development priorities are included in the budgeting processes. This was often due to limited resource envelopes in various departments

1.9 Definition of Key Concepts

Budget Making Process: It is a set of procedures by which the government rations resources and controls spending among the various government agencies. The government budget is used as an instrument for economic policy, management and accountability.

Public Participation: This refers to the process by which the government consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and citizen before making a decision. Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions.

Information Sharing- This describes the exchange of information between various organizations, individuals and governments. Citizen budget meetings and related publications are key aspects in information sharing. These two work together as main points of focus during public participation in the budgeting processes. The study explored on conduct of these meetings in terms of frequency, administrative levels and nature of publications in attracting a broad spectrum of participants.

Consultations-This refers to the act of exchanging information and opinions about something in order to reach a better understanding of it or to make a decision. Ward administrators hold regular ward and village meetings on wide socio-economic development concerns. These are built up to the ward levels where consultations that cut across a ward are channeled to sub counties and eventually to county sectors. These platforms of consultations provide opportunities for regular budgetary feedback. The frequency of these meetings, administrative levels, and nature of documentation as well as spectrum of stakeholders will also be studied.

Public Involvement-Refers to the process by which an organization or government consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and government entities before making a decision. Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions. Ward Fund Committees and Stakeholders fora are functional at the ward level. The mechanisms used in identifying priorities that are to be mainstreamed into annual budget and involvement of stakeholders will be explored.

Empowerment- Refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. The CEBF, bursary and enterprise revolving funds are also functional at ward, sub county and county levels. The scope of training of the members and methods of dissemination of trainings as empowerment tools will be explored on their effectiveness in addressing the citizen priorities.

Inclusivity- Refers to the process by which a government includes people who might be excluded or marginalized from the decision making process. For Public participation to have a great impact on the budget making process, all the citizens including those who have physical or mental disabilities and members of the minority groups should attend budget making meetings so as to air out their views.

Accountability- Accountability refers to a process that ensures that actions and decisions taken by public officials are subject to oversight so as to guarantee that government initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the community they are meant to be benefiting, thereby contributing to better governance

and poverty reduction. If public participation is accountable, it will have a greater impact on the budget making process.

Transparency –Refers to the process by which relevant information is available to the public. If the process of undertaking public participation that is information sharing, Consultation, involvement and empowerment are transparent, then the budget making process will have a positive impact with the citizen.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

This section examined previous literature on the various factors influencing public participation in budget formulation with particular reference to: information sharing, role of consultation, extent of involvement, role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process with a view of identifying the gaps that needed to be filled.

2.1 Public Participation on Budgetary Processes in Kenya

Enshrining citizen engagement into law is a value that has gained increased acceptance in many countries. The development of the “White Paper on European Governance” in the European Union in 2001 aimed at establishing minimum standards of public consultations and involvement among its citizens. These minimum standards namely principles were adopted by the European Union Parliament in 2009 thus providing legal provisions of citizen involvement in decision making processes including legislations and budgets (Hartay, 2011).

In the United Kingdom, the enactment of Freedom to Information Act in 2000, established a binding legal framework to public consultation that authorities use for access to information by the citizenry. This further provided exemptions to this Act on key concerns such as international relations, security, and judicial processes among others. This resulted to the development of Compact Code of Good Practice and Policy Appraisal that guides all government agencies on involvement with local communities for local actions. This code has been revised thrice with latest version effective since July 2009 (British Parliament, 2000). Similarly, the Austrian Government started developing standards of public participation in 2008 that have

continued to be improved for use across sectors and government authorities (Hartay, 2011).

In Latin America, Brazil has provided strong leadership in participatory budgeting processes across its local governments for the last three decades (Lisa & Miller, 2007). The main activities include: submission of annual budget estimates to the citizenry and prioritisation of government spending in view of limited public finances. Key achievements on this have been noted such as the Municipality of Porte Alegre in mid 1990s giving rise to adoption of best practices across municipalities in Brazil and other parts of the globe (Shah, 2007).

Public participation is a key governance value that has gained prominence since the promulgation of the Kenyan Constitution, 2010. Article 10(2) (a) provides for patriotism, sharing and devolution of power, national unity, the rule of law, participation of the people and democracy (The Republic of Kenya, 2010). It is therefore a cardinal constitutional requirement for the government to involve the citizens in every decision it makes. On public service, the constitution in Article 232 (1) (d) embeds involvement of the people in the process of policymaking. Similarly, the constitution in Article 201 (a) stipulates financial public participation as a main component of openness and accountability. This is further stipulated in the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 that provides guidelines on the finance management including the annual budgeting process. Section 125(2) provides the right to citizens and obligation on County government to ensure the public participates and is consulted in the budget making process (The Republic of Kenya , 2012).

2.2 Public Participation on Budgetary Processes in Laikipia

Every county is responsible for areas of functioning and jurisdiction. This is well achieved through a participatory process that links planning and budgeting and provided for in Article 174 (c) of the Constitution of Kenya. This Article seeks to improve public participation in the exercise of power by the state and in making decisions influencing them (International Commission of Jurists Kenya, 2013). Article 186(1) stipulates the functions of the national and county governments in the Fourth Schedule (World Bank Group, 2017). A key function by the county governments in Part II of this Schedule is ensuring and coordinating communal participation in governance at local levels (The Government of the Republic of Kenya, 2010). This is furthered by creation of citizen participation fora in Section 91 of the County Government Act (The Republic of Kenya, 2012).

Plan and policy formulation are among key areas that attract citizen participation (Cabannes, 2004). Section 91 in subsection (c) specifies budget preparation and validation as one of the citizen participation structures. Further Section 102 (i) of the County Government Act, 2012 specifies planning and budgeting principles including; engagement between county governments and the citizenry, interest groups and the stakeholders (The Republic of Kenya, 2012). Towards ensuring a comprehensive budget process, every County government is therefore expected to prepare budget estimates and supporting documents required to implement the budget under the leadership of the County Treasury (Ministry of Devolution and Planning, 2016). The Public Finance Management Act requires the establishment of County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) in each county whose main aim is the involvement of citizen representatives in decision-making on financial economic and budgeting matters (The Republic of Kenya , 2012). Other areas of citizen engagement include;

procurement processes, staff recruitment, civic education, information sharing and town administration (Environment Protection Agency, 2016).

2.3 The Role of Information Sharing in Budget Making Processes

Information sharing aims at providing citizens with balanced and objective information. The targeted people range from the general public to key stakeholder groups and community organizations (Kantai, 2010). Both responsive (answering questions asked by the community) and proactive (information dissemination) are adopted in the process. Informing entails communication over different timeframes. Good examples are one-off communication such as media or brochures, public barazas, pamphlets, posters, responses to inquiries, intensive processes such as community education, and in some case the websites (Stanburry,2004). The Government of the Republic of Kenya through various ministries, departments and agencies has always used this. Such agencies include Kenya News Agency, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and most recently the Government Advertising Agency. These agencies have been used with the aim of ensuring widespread access and clear understanding of government information. This has been recognized as a major achievement in Brazil where municipalities adopt standard procedures of citizen engagement in the budgetary processes (Public Participation Networks Annual Report Advisory Group, 2016).

Without proper access to information, the public cannot hold their leaders accountable in the spirit of the Constitution. Article 35 of the Kenyan Constitution safeguards the public access to information. The access to information law is vital to provide a legal framework for dynamic provision of information to the public including county governments (The Republic of Kenya, 2010). The Office of the Controller of Budget (OCoB) requires that all approved estimates be accompanied by relevant documentation of citizen information and consultations. This is fully complied in

every county using officers seconded to counties by the OCoB. Such compliance is vital in ensuring that budgetary spending is in line with community development priorities across counties (Office of the Controller of Budget, 2015). The Brazilian models have been a major reference on sharing budgetary information and subsequent implementation (Lisa, 2007).

In the County Government of Laikipia, a legal framework exists to provide structures of engagement with members of public. The Laikipia County Public Participation Act, 2014 provides for public participation and civic education by the County Government of Laikipia (County Government of Laikipia, 2014). This level of public participation has been implemented through use of annual leaders fora across 15 wards. Other platforms have been use of the official website through which information on tenders; recruitment and projects implementation are shared. The annual leaders' for which aims at presentation of project implementation publications at each ward, has offered citizens a say in prioritizing key development concerns. The development priorities at ward levels are then subjected to the various departments for further sectoral analysis and inclusion in the budget estimates (Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, 2016). The major drawbacks of this level of participation during the budget making process includes non-comprehensive information and limited means of communication which most of the time is through print media that most of the people living in rural areas cannot reach. The annual leaders fora are widely spaced and provide little chance for feedback to the communities on what development priorities are included in the budgeting processes. This is often due to limited resource envelopes in various departments (World Bank Group, 2017).

This level of public participation has however excelled in other counties such as West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet. Participatory budgeting in these counties has been rated amongst the most credible and inclusive in Kenya (Oyugi, 2013). The contributing factors include use of standard participatory budgeting framework that has continued to gain acceptance in other counties namely Baringo, Makueni and Kwale (World Bank Group, 2017). Laikipia has an opportunity in improving information sharing level of public participation and building it to better levels by adopting the participatory budgeting standard frameworks from the excelling counties. Makueni County for instance has ward committees who document community priorities that are used to interrogate sectoral spending proposals. This way, information gaps across sectors and those of communities are narrowed to ensure that priorities are included in budget estimates (Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative , 2017).

2.4 The Consult Level of Public Participation in Budget Formulation

The consult level of public participation is the least entry for public input into a public decision, consult basically implies to asking. This level of public participation describes the process of obtaining feedback from the available information. This type of engagement seeks to obtain feedback on alternatives, analysis or decisions and the promise is to keep the public informed and provide feedback on how public input affected the decision (Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative,2017).

Consultation entails the consolidation of community input and views into policy, decisions and plans. The stake of the decisions remains with the consulting firm or government. Consultation occurs in different ways ranging from those that require massive to no dialogue. Good illustrations include written consultations such a one-off survey in a documents or newsletter open to public domain for comments through to those involving debate and dialogue such as focus groups, public meetings and

processes where the community/stakeholder has an influence on the stipulated options. Processes for gaining social research, attitudinal surveys and rural intelligence, would also be constituted (Hartay, 2011).

The Government of the Republic of Kenya has used this level in planning, policy formulation and budgetary processes through engagement of stakeholders. Every government ministry, department and agency has common characteristics to global classification of government functions. The respective functions attract dynamic stakeholders ranging from institutions, organizations, public benefit organizations, private sector, interest groups, professional associations, academia and general public (Ministry of Devolution and Planning, 2016). In the budgeting processes, sector working groups hold consultations with such stakeholders every October-November as specified by the National Treasury Budget Circular (The Republic of Kenya , 2012).

The process of community engagement greatly involves consultation, community participation, and commitment that are all matched to meet the stakeholders' expectations. Feedback on the contribution of the input on decision is important, otherwise stakeholders may not comply with the decision, particularly where change in values, attitudes or practices is involved such as budget making processes for ownership and sustainability. Information sharing through public meetings enhances public participation in the budget making process. The higher the level of information shared, the higher the likelihood of an individual to participate in the budget making process (Ainsten & Sherry, 2004).

2.5 The Involve Level of Public Participation in Budget Making Processes

Involve basically means to include, it implies that public participation entails more than mere consultation. This rationale ensures that all the engagements which are done in order to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public in line with public aspirations and concerns whereas the promise is that the public will have access to the decision makers and processes and will be given the chance to provide input throughout the process and get feedback on the contribution of their input in the decision making process. This level of engagement demands for more engagements with the stakeholders (German Participatory Budgeting Network). Those organs responsible in developing engagement plans at this level must collaborate with the community so that their ideologies are directly reflected in the alternatives and solutions, and be explicit on how this input was added to the budget decision-making processes (Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative , 2017).

The involve level has been used by the Government of the Republic of Kenya in running most institutions. In the State Department of Basic Education, schools have representation in School Management Committees and Boards of Management at primary and secondary levels respectively. These organs work with government officials throughout various processes that impact on plans, policies and budgets. This is further entrenched through legislations, legal notices and administrative procedures. (The Republic of Kenya, 2012). This level calls for clear communications with stakeholders to prevent fallout due to unrealized expectations. This includes stakeholders who assume that the making of all the decisions rests on them.

In Elgeyo Marakwet County, wards equalization development framework is in place that apportions a percentage of the total development budget to be fully informed by

the citizens and the remainder by sector priorities (World Bank Group, 2017). This affirms the importance of the involve level of participatory budgeting. However, a major drawback is non-existence of standard wards development regulations across the country. This arises from heavy borrowing from the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF) thus the risk of duplication of efforts since the NGCDF has ward committees. Advisories from the Office of Controller of Budget have also slowed the implementation of priorities identified at this level mainly due to political competition amongst the County Executive and the County Assembly (County Government of Laikipia, 2014). The major gap is the capacity building of the committees for effective delivery of their mandates in informing budgetary processes (Office of the Controller of Budget, 2017).

2.6 The Empower Level of Public participation in Budget Making Processes

At this level, the responsibility for decision-making and the accountability for the decisions' outcomes rest upon the communities. This method of engagement seeks to make the public the core decision makers (Public Participation Network). Policy and legislative frameworks delegates power communities to participate in decision-making. The level of power handed to the community may however be limited. For instance, limited time, specified issues have extensive decision-making powers (Cabannes, 2004).

This level of public participation is the most challenging approach to community engagement; it however offers the greatest rewards in capacity building. There is a commitment by engagement initiators to participate as a stakeholder and to share decision-making powers to attain collaborative action. The promise processes' users is to maintain a high level of active involvement in developing, designing and implementing the approach. Those who fail to participate to this level risk breaking

the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and political support and legitimacy (William & Rivenback, 2011)). The empowerment approach has more innovative results that incorporate all the participants' knowledge as well as reduced conflict, commitment to ongoing action and greater ownership of outcomes (Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, 2016).

The Republic of Kenya has gainfully enhanced the empower level of public participation. Enshrined within bill of rights and democracy, this has been possible through structuring of government in enhancing service delivery (Ministry of Devolution & Planning, 2016). Historically, administrative levels and offices have increased including representation of the people. Service delivery and information access have also improved with emerging trends such as Service Delivery Units, Huduma Centers and related initiatives. On participatory budgeting, this is best exhibited through the National Development Constituency Development Fund. The NCDF has been operational since 2002 with improved allocations at 2.5% of the most recent national audited revenues.

2.7 Hypotheses

- i. The higher the information shared the higher the likelihood of an individual to participate in the budget making fora.
- ii. Adequate consultative meetings between the government and the citizen lead to ownership of the process of the budget making by the citizenry.
- iii. Public involvement helps in addressing priority concerns in budget making processes.
- iv. Empowerment of the public plays a great a role in the budget making process in that it will place the final decision making process to the public

2.8 Theoretical Framework

The study was guided by the Governance Theory.

2.8.1 Governance Theory

Governance theory holds that decision-making processes are dynamic in nature and involve network of actors whether in corporate or public affairs. In the modern society, this involves both decision-making and implementation of policies and laws by the government and multiple actors outside the government (Pierre,2000). Budgets are key policy instruments whose formulation, approval and implementation target members of the public.

The theory is premised on five assumptions: First, governance constitutes of set of actors and institutions that are derived from but also beyond the ruling government. Secondly, governance identifies the blurring of boundaries and responsibilities for tackling both economic and social issues. Thirdly, governance points out the power dependence involved in the associations between institutions entailed in collective action. Fourthly, governance is about autonomous self-governance networks of actors and finally that governance recognizes the ability to execute tasks without the interference or use of authority by the government. It proposes that the government can adopt new techniques to mobilize action.

Governance is the interactive development of governing processes in which boundaries between and within public and private sectors have become blurred towards collective action in tackling socio-economic issues (Stoker, 1998). The World Bank describes governance as the exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage societal issues and affairs (Hopkins, 1991). Governance may also be seen as a commitment to efficient and accountable exercise

of wide range of political tools beyond direct provision of public services. In addition, governance is also concerned with steering political authorities' actions as they deliberately attempt to improve socio-economic structures and processes (Mayntz, 2004). These discussions are supportive of the key assumptions of the Governance theory including: interaction of institutions within and beyond government; blurred boundaries in tackling socio-economic issues; power dependence in associations between institutions involved in collective action; use of new tools and techniques to steer and guide. The propositions have informed this study on information sharing, consultations, involvement and empowerment in participatory budget making.

Sharing of information and encouraging the public to involve themselves in the policy process entrenches collaborative governance through shared, negotiated and deliberative decision making (Bevir, 2010). At the highest level of public participation aimed at community empowerment, direct structured inputs by the citizens are factored in decision-making. The involvement of citizens builds on their local capacities as well as ensures more inclusive and appropriate policies (Stoker 1998).

Policy concerns are broad and hardly limited to any level of government or domain sector. The theory applies in this study in support of advocacy for involvement of multi-stakeholders in addressing public affairs is an avenue through which all kinds of social interests and actors combine efforts to formulate and implement policies, practices and rules. This way, consultations amongst multiple stakeholders are vital where interests and capacities are put to perspective for the public good. In the 21st Century, governance at a global level has expanded the local communities' participation in formulation of policies and their implementation. This has as a result

led to increasingly mobilized and organized society groups that are useful in constraining political actors across states and nations (Ebdon, 2004).

The proposition on autonomous self-governing societal networks in addressing complex nature of policy concerns also applies in this study. Society groups include multiple stakeholders such as private firms, non-governmental organizations, non-profit service providers, academia, philanthropic organizations, labour associations, professional associations, media and members of public. These groups are characterized with wide societal forces whose involvement is vital in service delivery and strategic decision-making. This makes governance an interactive process because no single actor in the public or private sector has the knowledge and resource capacity to tackle socio-economic issues unilaterally (William & Rivenback, 2011). The involvement of these societal networks improves transparency and accountability as members to each network have common interests and relationship to the government. The relationship between the state and these stakeholders in the society varies according to architecture of government, levels of government, proximity to government offices, legal frameworks, and representation by elected leaders, human settlements, information technology, socio economic activities among others (Vigoda, 2002).

The function of the government and its agencies therefore should focus more on coordination and regulation. This creates the need by government and its agencies to proactively offer leadership build partnerships and promote opportunities (Stoker, 1998). Public Benefit Organizations are broadly autonomous from both state and the private sector. However, their nature of services is geared towards the general public and humanitarian purposes. Therefore, they complement government efforts and have

gained an increasingly important role in governance in civic education and empowerment (Bevir, 2010).

2.8.2 Application of the Theory to the Study

The theory applied to the study on the understanding that more public sector involvement through public participation leads to good governance. Good governance in turn leads to improvement in service delivery as measured in terms of increased levels of citizen empowerment. Budget is a key government policy document, which calls for participation by citizens. The communities are viewed as lowest administrative units whose capacities are important in the hierarchy of state (Davis, 2004).

In devolved units in Kenya, counties have an obligation of collecting user fee charges. This provides an opportunity where financial decisions such as rates on user charges are discussed by a broad section of the citizens. Largely targeted is the private sector, which forms a ready platform as major source of local revenue in form of business permits to the county governments. In formulating the annual finance acts, the counties are guided by the PFM Act, 2012 to consult with members of public (Kantai, 2010).

The five propositions on governance theory recognize the role of institutions and actors from within and beyond government. Various institutions and actors at different levels have respective roles in information sharing, involvement, consultation and empowerment in the budget making process. This calls for various actors to think and act beyond unitary subsystems, avoid undesirable outcomes and establishing appropriate operating code for effective coordination. The use of these mechanisms in the public participation process is to ensure that the citizens, rather

than the executive, drive government funding to projects. This bottom up approach enhances the ownership of the projects by the people, which in essence deepens principles of democracy (William & Rivenback, 2011).

The theory supports common understanding that it is the government's responsibility to provide avenue for information sharing, consultation, involvement and empowerment during the process of making annual budgets to its citizens. Such avenues provide for interactions in various forms and scope between the government, the private sector and the public. As a provider of public goods, the Government of Kenya has established institutions including the National Treasury and County Governments. The Public Finance Management Act of 2012 instructs the forming of collaborations with various stakeholders to ensure that the budget making process is done according to the law guides these institutions.

This study argues that the quality of budget making process depends on the extent to which public participation in the form of information, consultation, involvement and empowerment is actualized. Increased public participation enhances the quality of budget making process hence higher chances of achieving better public service delivery

Adequate budgetary information and budgetary related meetings should provide avenues where members of public are invited for their views, contributions and presentations both in writing and orally. These platforms aim to promote access to information and accountability on policy related information such as annual budgets to the citizenry. Increased levels of information encourage citizens to consistently attend public participation meetings.

Ward Administrators are charged with the overall administrative and coordination mandates including budgeting processes. At this level, consultations held at wards and villages related to budgeting should be documented at ward level for onward submissions to sub counties and eventually the county sector working groups. These consultations increasingly improve on ownership of development interventions.

Wards Development Fund Committees and Ward Stakeholders fora provide an opportunity for prioritization of interventions arising from community priority needs. Decisions at these levels are channeled to the respective sectors for budgetary considerations.

The CBEF has an overall mandate of sensitizing the public on economic and financial decisions. These sensitizations are premised on integrated plans and budgets. Similarly, bursary, enterprise and co-operative committees are tasked on awareness creation and training of members of public thus enhancing their capacity in participatory budgeting making processes. Better training of these committees result to efficient conduct of mandated roles and sensitization at community levels.

The various initiatives at different levels and scales all work together towards strengthening participatory budgeting. Inclusivity, transparency and accountability are key values that are entrenched through these initiatives.

2.9 Conceptual Framework

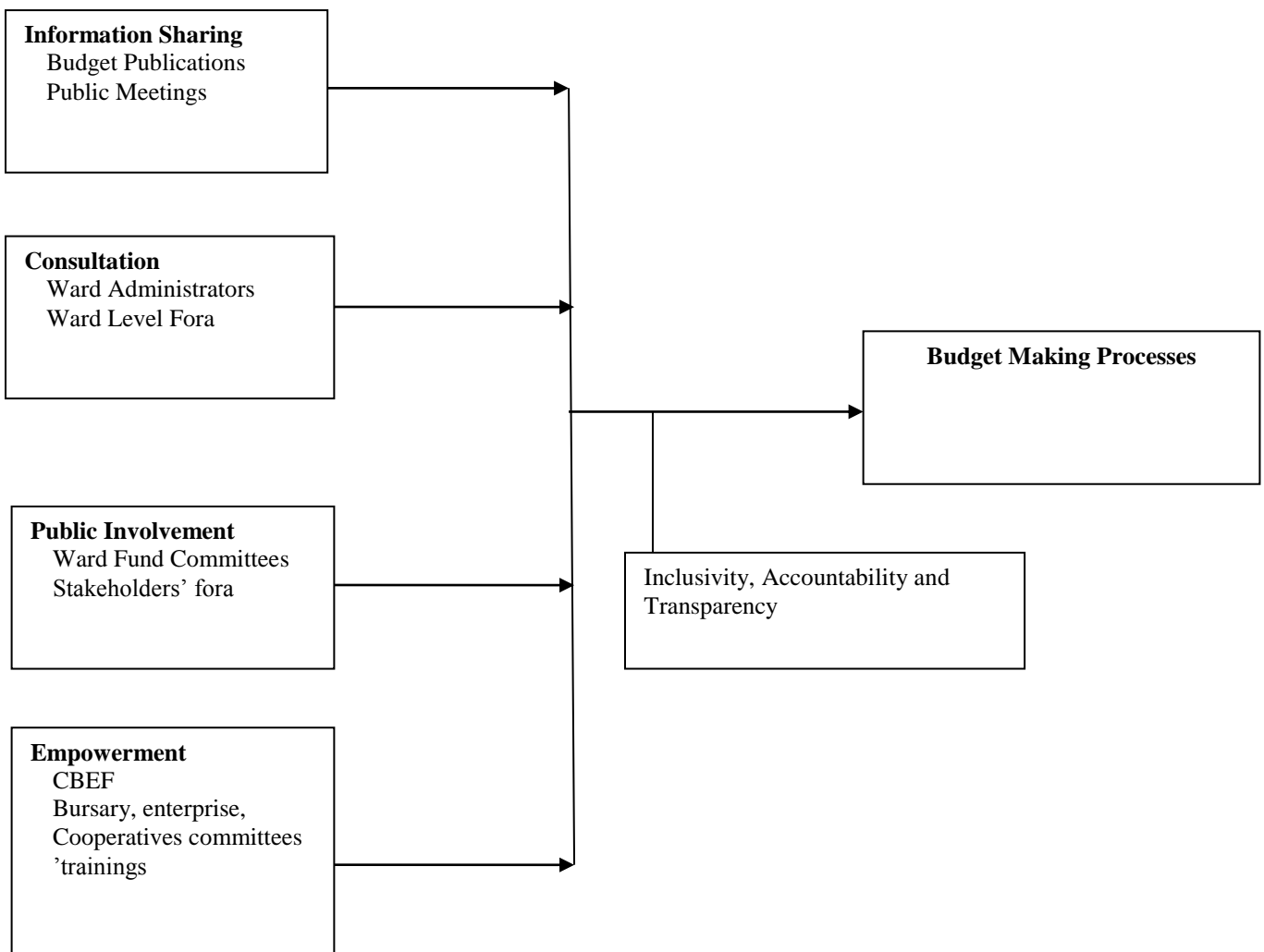


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Author

The conceptualization is that the budget making process is a product of information sharing, consultation, public involvement and empowerment to the extent that inclusivity, accountability and transparency is in cooperated.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter described the research methodology used in the study, the target population, sample population, data collection techniques, validity and reliability of data collection instruments, methods of data analysis and definition of variables.

3.1 Research Methodology

Research methodology explained the pattern the researcher intends to follow in order to control the variance, maximize variance due to the independent variables, eliminate or reduce influence of the extraneous variables, minimize error variance and at the same time ensure that the findings can be tested for significance (Mugenda, 2009). The study employed both qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

3.2 Research Design

The study employed exploratory cross-sectional quantitative design using concurrent transformative approach, which will be used to ensure that collection and analysis of data is done in order to answer the research questions. The design was used to investigate the target population through selection of samples. The samples were analyzed to discover events and occurrences. Numeric descriptive was provided for events that took place.

3.3 Research Methods

This study used a survey and interview methods, which allowed for collection of data using basic tools, and hence enhanced understanding of the area under the study for valid recommendations, findings and conclusions. It adopted questionnaires as the

data collection instruments to facilitate clear understanding of the study questions during data collection.

3.4 Target Population

Target population is described as the members of real or hypothetical set of people events or objects a research wishes to generalize the results of his or her study (Kothari, 2004). The aim of the study was to establish how information sharing, consultation, involvement and empowerment influence public participation during the budget making process. The study targeted members of public, community leaders and officers from the departments of administration, finance and planning. Table 1.9.7 the categories and numbers of the targeted population distributed across wards as the focus of administrative units in the county.

Table 3.1: Target Population

Category	Targeted Population
Members of Public	150
Community leaders	100
Public Administration	25
Finance and Planning	15
Total	290

Source: Author

3.5 Sampling Procedure

The researcher conducted convenience sampling on the role of information sharing, consultation, involvement and empowerment on public participation during the budget making process. The study area was divided into four strata. From each stratum, at least 17 of respondents were sampled. The sample frame was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table with confidence level of 95 percent and a

margin error of five percent. The results of the population size of 290 gave a total sample size of 226 as shown in Table 1.9.8. Questionnaires were administered to at least 30 per cent of 226 translating to a minimum of 68 respondents. The respondents who were members of public and community leaders were reached during public meetings at ward levels. Respondents that were officials in departments were visited in their offices or reached during meetings.

Table 3.2: Sample Size

Category	Targeted Population	Sample Size	Targeted Respondents
Members of Public	150	108	33
Community leaders	100	80	24
Public Administration	25	24	7
Finance and Planning	15	14	4
Total	290	226	68

Source: Author

3.6 Instruments of Data Collection

Data collection was conducted using primary method of data collection. Primary data was collected using observation and questionnaires administered by the researcher and aided by field assistants. The respondents were members of public, community leaders and officials in departments of finance and administration.

The questionnaire contained both closed and open ended questions in line with the research questions on how information sharing contribute to an effective budget making process, the role of consultation in the budget making process, the extent to which involvement of the people contribute to an efficient budget making process, and the extent to which empowerment contribute to better budget making process. Likert type scales were used to order opinions and observations from the respondents as guided by structured statements. The Likert type scale was used to rate the standardized responses from respondents on various variables along a set of five scales. This was done to ensure that sufficient and relevant information are obtained from the respondents.

3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

Completed questionnaires were edited and serialized to aid data coding. Descriptive statistics was used to interpret qualitative using percentages and frequency tables The Statistical Package for Social Science was used as an aid in data analysis. Frequency tables and percentages were used to determine the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables.

Table 3.3: Operational Definition of Variables

Research Objective	Variable	Indicator	Measurement Scale	Data Collection	Type of Analysis
To investigate how information sharing affects the budget making process	Public meetings Budget Publications	Frequency of meetings Types of publications	Nominal and ordinal scale	Questionnaire	Frequency Tables Percentages
To find out the role of consultation in the budget making process	Ward level Fora Ward Administrators	Frequency of fora Frequency of community consultations	Nominal and ordinal scale	Questionnaire	Frequency Tables Percentages
To identify the extent of involvement in the budget making process	Ward Fund Committees Stakeholders fora	Membership Frequency of meetings Frequency of fora	Nominal and ordinal scale	Questionnaire	Frequency Tables Percentages
To find out the role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process	Sensitization meetings Trainings	Frequency of trainings Frequency of meetings	Nominal and ordinal scale	Questionnaire	Frequency Tables Percentages

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

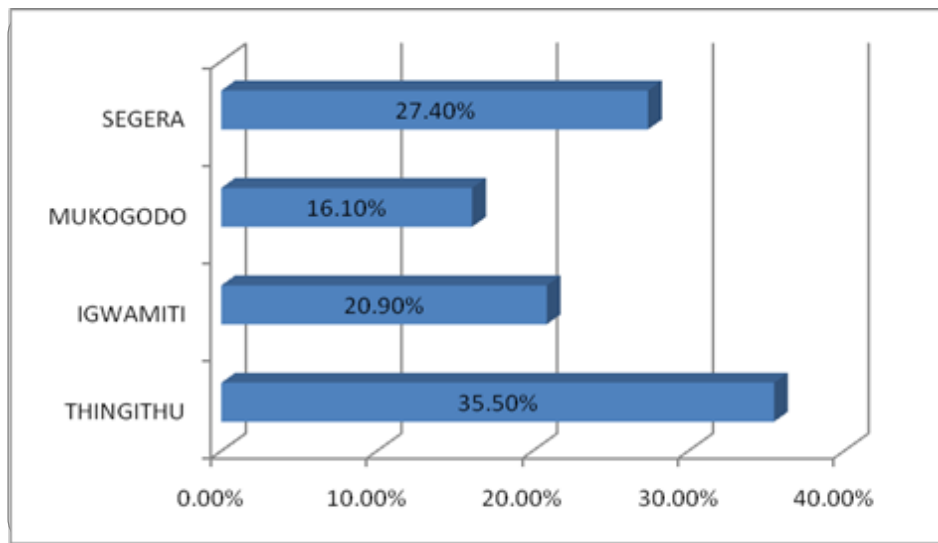
In this chapter, a presentation, interpretation and discussion of the findings were done based on the objectives of the study. The study had four specific objectives namely; to investigate how information sharing affects the budget making process, to find out the role of consultation in the budget making process, to identify how the extent of involvement affect the budget making process, and to find out the role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process. The study analyzed the role of public participation in budget making process at the county Government of Laikipia.

The chapter therefore presents an analysis and presentation of the findings based on the objectives and hypothesis of the study.

4.1 Background and Demographic characteristics

Four wards in Laikipia County were picked for the study. Figure 4.1 below shows their respective proportions in terms of the total targeted respondents.

Figure 4.1: Proportion of the Selected Wards in Terms of Total Targeted Respondents



Source: Author

4.1.1 Response Rate

For the study, 68 questionnaires were issued to the target respondents who were members of public, community leaders and officers from the departments of administration, finance and planning in Laikipia County. The overall response rate across for the study was as presented in Table 4.1 below

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Returned	62	91
Unreturned	6	9
Total	68	100

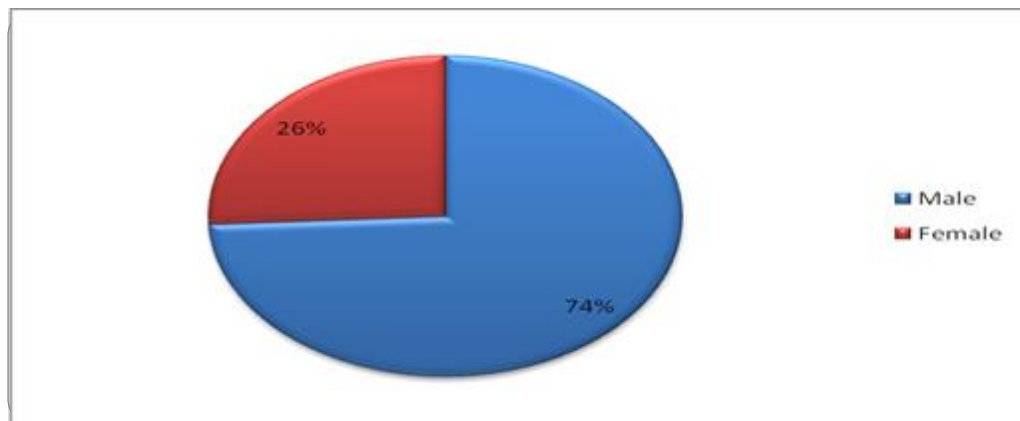
Source: Author

The results in table 4.1 indicate an overall successful response rate of 91%. Therefore, the response rate documented for the analysis was found fit for analysis since it is supported by Mugenda and Mugenda (2010) that any response rate of 70% and above is considered excellent for analysis and making conclusions.

4.1.2 Gender of the Respondents

From the questionnaires, the respondents were asked to indicate their gender. It was necessary to indicate the gender of the respondents so as to establish whether an association exists between gender of the respondents and the level of participation in the budget making process. Figure 4.2 below.

Figure 4.2: Gender of the Respondents



Source: Author

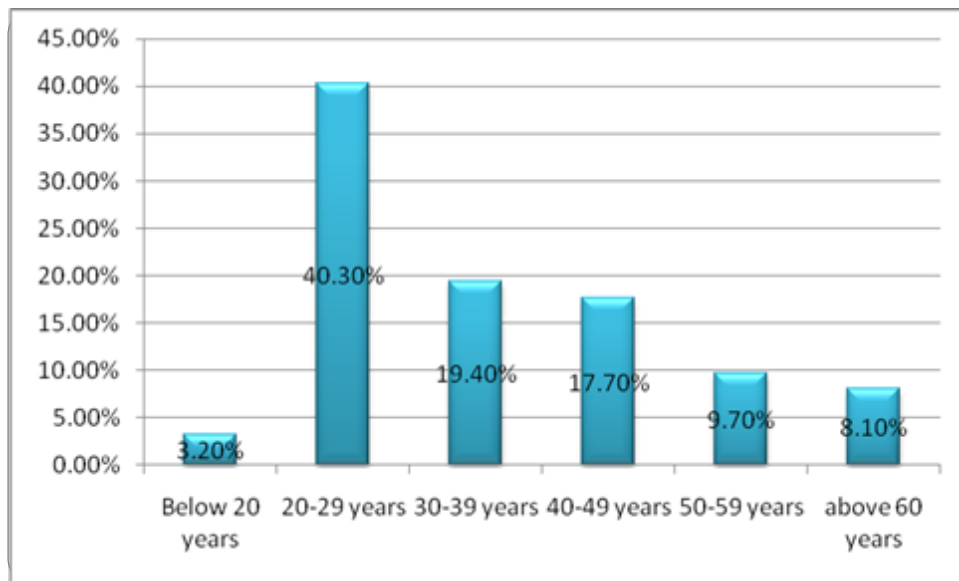
From the findings in Figure 4.2 above, 74% of the respondents were male while 26% were female. The results clearly illustrate there were more male than female participants. This implies that there was less participation of female participants to the public participation meetings that could lead to negative impact on the budget making process.

4.1.3 Age of the Respondents

The respondents in the survey were required to indicate their age so as to establish whether there was a link between age and level of awareness in public participation.

The results are exhibited in Figure 4.3 below

Figure 03: Age of the Respondent



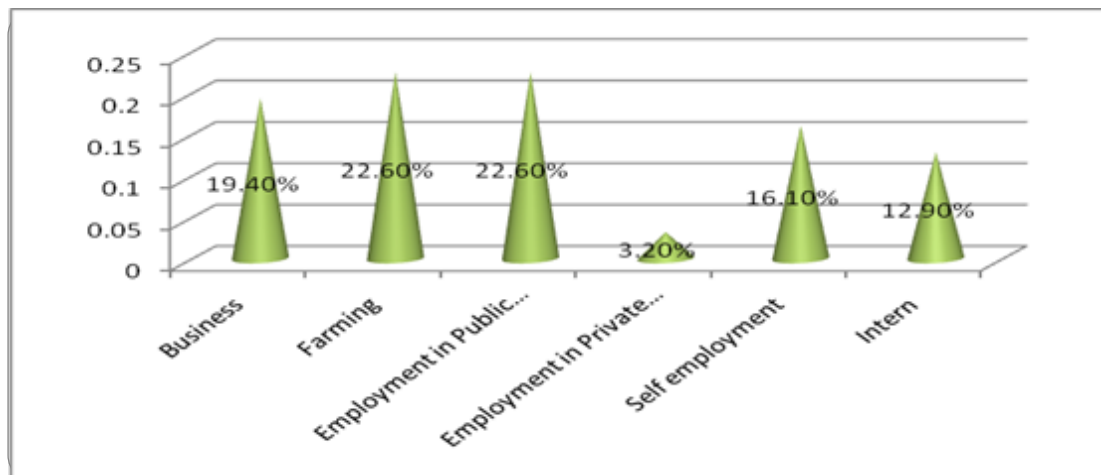
Source: Author

The results indicate in figure 4.3 above show that 40.3 % were aged between 20-29 years, 19.4% constituted those aged 30-39 years, 17.7% those aged 40-49 years, 9.7 those aged 50-59 years, 8.1% aged above 60 years, while 3.20% were below 20 years. This implies that most respondents were middle aged. There was less participation by those aged below twenty years since budget related issues can only be handled by those aged above eighteen years. Majority of the respondents were aged between 20 to 30 years since the youth are mostly involved in budget making issues due to their great stake and interest in it.

4.1.4 The Occupation of the Respondents

The study sought to establish the occupations of the respondents because it will have a bearing on the level of awareness and interest in public participation. Occupation can signify level of socialization, which in turn can influence level of awareness and interests in certain aspects. The results on the occupation of the respondents are as depicted in figure 4.4 below

Figure 4.4: Occupation of the Respondents



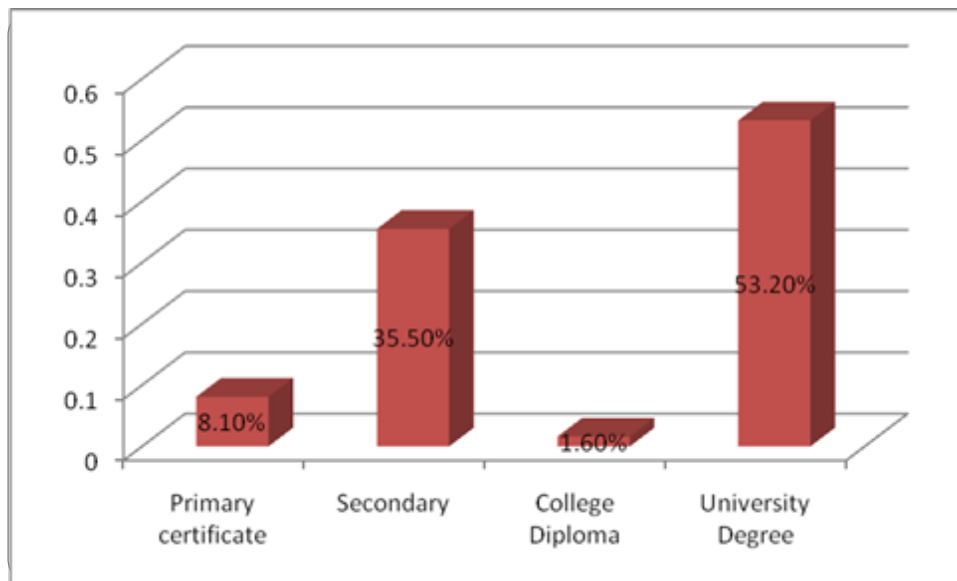
Source: Author

The findings in figure 4.4 above indicate that majority of the respondents practiced farming while others were employed in public institutions each with a percentage of 22.60%, the percentage of those in business was 19.40%, self-employment 16.10%, interns 12.90% while those employed in the private sector took the least percentage of 3.20%.

4.1.5 Level of Education of the Respondents

The respondents were also asked to indicate the education level acquired. This was important since the level of education attained comes with new knowledge and expectations, which will be used to foster the budget making process. The results were as illustrated in figure 4.5 below;

Figure 4.5: Education Level of the Participants



Source: Author

From the findings in figure 4.5 above, majority of the respondents, 53.20% had attained university degree, 35.50% secondary education, 8.10% primary certificates while 1.60% had college diplomas. These imply that the respondents had adequate knowledge to understand the importance of public participation in the budget making process.

4.2 How Information Sharing Affects the Budget Making Process

In order to establish how the information sharing affects the budget making process, the study hypothesized that the higher the information shared the higher the likelihood that an individual will participate in the budget making fora. Attendance to public participation meetings, level of public participation meeting attended, frequency of public participation meetings attendance, nature and agenda of the meetings and the mode of information shared during the meetings measured the effect of information sharing on the budget making process.

4.2.1 Number of Public Participation Meetings Attended by the Respondents

In order to establish whether or not the public attends meetings, the respondents were asked to state whether they had attended any public participation meeting. The responses were then cross tabulated by wards and the results are shown in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Number of Public Participation Meetings Attended by the Respondents

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO WEST	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Yes	Count	13	8	14	18	53
	%	20.96%	12.9%	22.6%	29.03%	82.48%
No	Count	0	2	3	4	9
	%	0	3.22%	4.84%	6.45%	14.51%
Count		13	10	17	22	62
% of total		20.96%	16.12%	27.41%	35.48%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.2 shows that the highest attendance of public meetings was 29.03% by Thingithu, followed by Segera 22.6% while Mukogodo west had the lowest attendance of 12.96%. From the findings, it is evident that the level of attendance to public meetings was high across the four wards as evidenced by a cumulative percentage of 82.48%. The ward with the lowest level of attendance was Mukogodo West and this due to its location in a marginalized zone within Laikipia County thus its occupants have little access to information sharing platforms while Thingithu ward recorded the highest level of participation due to its close proximity to both Nyahururu and Nanyuki town Centre's where budget making meetings are common. The high overall percentage of participation in public meetings allow for the needs and concerns of the public to be incorporated into the decision making processes

during budget making which affect the way policies with regard to various development programs are made. These findings conform to those by Awio &Northcott who argue that through public participation; those interested or potentially influenced by a decision get a chance to participate in the decision making process (Awio &Northcott, 2007) and therefore the public participation meetings enhanced participation in budget making forums thus allowing for the incorporation of the needs of the households into the budget making.

4.2.2 Levels of Public Participation Meetings Attended by the Respondents

In order to establish the level of public barazas attended, the respondents were asked to indicate the level of public participation meetings attended. The responses were then cross tabulated in wards and results shown in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3 shows the specific levels of meetings attended by the respondents across the four wards in Laikipia County. They either have attended meetings at village level, ward level, constituency level or county level.

It is evident from Table 4.3 that most of the respondents had attended public participation meetings at ward level as indicated by 26.3% in Thingithu followed by 14% in Segera while county level meetings were the least attended as evidenced by lower percentages of up to 1.7% attendance in Mukogodo West. Some respondents also indicated that they had attended public participation meetings in more than one level. The public participatory meetings are for the budget making process. The fact that majority of the respondents had participated in ward level meetings across the four wards shows that frequent meetings are held by the members of the County Assembly, ward administrators and the public to ensure that the public grievances are forwarded for necessary action such as assessment and budget allocation. County

meetings recorded lower attendance levels and this conforms with studies by (Mugambi &Theuri, 2014) that counties experience challenges in that information is put in the dailies and not all people can access the papers, venues of the meetings are most of the time not convenient and the duration of holding the meetings is not adequate as it is held once in a year thus lower overall attendance to county meetings. The responses were then cross-tabulated by wards and the results are shown in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3: Levels of Public Participation Meetings Attended by the Respondents

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO WEST	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Village	Count	4	0	4	3	11
	%	7%	0	7%	5.3%	19.2%
Ward	Count	6	7	8	15	36
	%	10.5%	12.3%	14%	26.3%	63.2%
Constituency	Count	1	0	2	1	4
	%	1.7%	0	3.5%	1.7%	7%
County	Count	2	1	2	1	6
	%	3.5%	1.7%	3.5%	1.7%	10.5%
Count	Count	13	8	16	20	57
% of total	%	22.8%	14%	28.1%	35.15	100%

Source: Author

4.2.3 Number of Public Participation Meetings Attended

In order to establish the frequency and consistency of participation in public barazas, the respondents were asked to indicate the number times they had attended public barazas, the responses across the four wards were cross-tabulated and the findings are as shown in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Number of Public Participation Meetings attended by Respondents

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Igwamiti	1.00	10.00	3.3333	2.67889
Mukogodo West	1.00	10.00	3.0000	2.97610
Thingithu Ward	1.00	20.00	4.4615	5.22199
Segera	1.00	10.00	3.0000	2.36643
Overall	1.00	12.5	3.449	2.723

Source: Author

Table 4.4 above shows the frequency of attendance to meetings by the respondents across the four wards in Laikipia County. As exhibited from table, the highest level of attendance was twenty from a respondent from Thingithu Ward while the least attendance was one from across the four wards. Thingithu Ward also registered the highest average attendance of four while the average attendance was three across the other three wards. The high standard deviation of up to 5.221 was due to high variations in attendance in Thighithu. The other three wards had relatively equal standard deviations implying that there was consistence in attendance to budget making meetings by the members. It can therefore be argued from the findings that the frequency of attendance to public meetings by people living in Laikipia County is still low and inconsistent as shown by attendance by one member up to twenty times when others are attending either ones or even none. Therefore, people must be informed more on the importance of public participation in the budget making process such as its role in the promotion of shared understanding, transparency and accountability in both governance processes as well as actual service delivery as purported by Moseti (2010).

4.2.4 The Agenda or Nature of the Meetings Attended

In order to establish the Agenda or nature of the meetings, the respondents were asked to state the agenda of the meetings they had attended.

The responses across the four wards were cross-tabulated and the findings presented as shown in Table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Number of Public Participation Meetings attended by Respondents

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO WEST	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Budget bills at county assembly	Count	1	0	4	3	8
	%	1.16%	0%	6.3%	4.8%	12.9%
Youth development fund meetings	Count	2	1	3	4	10
	%	3.2%	1.16%	4.8%	6.3%	16%
Bursary allocation meetings	Count	2	2	3	4	11
	%	3.2%	3.2%	4.8%	6.3%	17.7%
Project identification meetings	Count	1	3	1	3	8
	%	1.16%	4.8%	1.16%	4.8%	12.3%
Insecurity meetings	Count	1	1	2	2	6
	%	1.16%	1.16%	3.2%	3.2%	12%
NHIF registration and toilet construction	Count	0	1	0	0	1
	%	0	1.16%	0	0	1.16%
Priority setting	Count		1		2	5
	%		1.16%		3.2%	8.0%
Participatory budgeting	Count	2	1			3
	%		1.16%			4.8%
Youth	Count	2	0	1	1	4

empowerment	%	3.2%	0	1.16%	1.16%	6.3%
Budget allocation of proposed projects	Count	1	1	0	1	3
	%	1.16%	1.16%	0	1.16%	4.8%
Choosing committee members	Count	0	0	1	2	3
	%	0	0	1.16%	3.2%	4.8%
	Total	13	10	17	22	62%
	% of Total	21%	16%	24.4%	35.6%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.5 above shows the various types or agenda of meetings attended, they were either for making budget bills at county assembly, youth development fund meetings, bursary allocation meetings, project identification meetings, insecurity meetings, NHIF registration and toilet construction, priority setting, participatory budgeting, youth empowerment, budget allocation of proposed projects, budget representation making and estimates or choosing committee members. The overall findings of the highest four agendas across the four wards were bursary allocation meetings 17% followed by youth development fund meetings 16%, project identification meetings 12.3% and insecurity meetings 12%. This shows that citizens have more stake and interest in projects that affect them on an individual level as opposed to those that affect the general welfare of the community.

4.2.5 Mode of information Sharing

In order to establish the type of information shared during the meetings, the respondents were asked to indicate the mode of information shared during the public participation meetings.

The results were then cross tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Mode of Information Sharing Administered to Respondents at Public Participation Meetings

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO WEST	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Oral	Count	6	3	5	8	22
	%	10.7%	5.4%	8.9%	14.3%	39.3%
Written	Count	0	0	0	3	4
	%	0	0	0	5.4%	7.1%
Both oral And Written	Count	6	6	9	8	29
	%	10.7%	10.7%	16%	14.3%	51.8%
Access to Website	Count	0	0	1	0	1
	%	0	0	1.8%	0	1.8%
Total Count		13	9	15	19	56
% of total		23.2%	16%	26.7%	33.9%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.6 in the subsequent page shows the mode of information administered during public participation meetings in Laikipia County. The available modes were oral, written, both oral and written or access to county website.

The table shows that the most shared mode of information was both oral and written as evidenced by the highest percentage of 16% in Segera and an overall percentage of 51.8% across the four wards, followed by the oral mode with a cumulative percentage of 39.3% while the least shared mode of information was access to county website with an overall percentage of 1.8%. From the findings, it is clear that the oral and written mode were the most common modes of sharing information across all the four wards. This implies that most information was transmitted verbally in open forums; this is the predominant mode of communication and types of meetings that most

participatory budget making forums adopt. The preference for oral communication was attributed to the education level of respondents, as some were not be able to read and understand written communication. The low adoption of other modes of information sharing modes such as the county website agree with studies by (Mugambi &Theuri, 2014) who opine that lack of knowledge on the existence of, use and inaccessibility to different budget making processes platforms are an impediment to public participation in the budget making.

4.3 The Role of Consultation in the Budget Making Process

In order to establish the role of consultation in the budget making process, the study hypothesized that adequate consultative meetings between the government and the citizen leads to ownership of the process of the budget making by the citizenry. The role of consultation in the budget making process were measured by determining the most consulted government officers in the budget making process at ward level, whether the respondents had attended stakeholders consultative forums or whether budgetary process was part of the consultative forum.

4.3.1 The most consulted government officers in the budget making process

In order to identify the most consulted government officers in the budget making process, the respondents were asked to state the government officers whom they consulted most.

The responses were then cross-tabulated by wards and the results shown in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7: Most Consulted Government Officers on Budgeting Processes

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Chiefs	COUNT	0	0	1	2	3
	%	0	0	1.8%	3.5%	52.6%
Ward administrators	COUNT	12	9	11	15	47
	%	21.1%	15.7%	19.3%	26.3%	82.5%
Members of County Assembly	COUNT	1	1	3	2	7
	%	1.8%	1.8%	52.6%	3.5%	13.3%
Count	COUNT	13	10	15	19	57
% of total	%	22.8%	17.5%	26.3%	33.3%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.7 shows the most consulted government officers in the budget making processes in Laikipia county. These were chiefs, ward administrators or members of county Assembly

The study deduce from table that the most consulted government officers in the budget making process across the four wards were ward administrators as shown by a total percentage of 82.5% across the four wards followed by chiefs 52.3% while the least consulted were members of county assembly with a percentage of 13.3%. The ward administrators appeared as the most consulted since they handle the administrative matters at ward level thus the citizens consult them on several issues, which lead to consolidation of community input and views into policy and obtainment of feedback on alternatives, analysis or decisions. This finding agrees with a section in the Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative which states that consultation keeps

the public informed and provides feedback on how public input affected the budget making decision (Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative,2017).

4.3.2 Attendance of Consultative Forums at the Ward Level

In order to establish whether or not the public attends consultative forums at ward level, the respondents were asked to state whether they had attended consultative forums at ward level. The responses were cross tabulated across the four wards and results shown in Table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8: Attendance of Consultative Forums at the Ward Level

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Yes	COUNT	8	6	8	15	37
	%	13.8%	10.3%	13.8%	25.9%	63.8%
No	COUNT	5	4	7	5	21
	%	8.8%	6.9%	12.1%	8.8%	36.2%
Count	COUNT	13	10	15	20	58
% of total	%	22.4%	17.2%	25.9%	34.4%	100%

Source: Author

From the findings in table 4.8 above, it is evident that majority of the respondents, 63.8% had attended consultative forums at ward level. Citizens from Thingithu ward recorded the highest attendance of 25.9% while those from Mukogodo recorded the lowest at 10.3%. Most of the respondents had attended consultative forums at ward level because the consult level of participation is the least entry into public decision and basically open to everybody.

4.3.3 Inclusion of budgetary meetings as Part of the consultative Agenda

In order to establish whether budgetary meetings were part of public meetings agenda, the respondents were asked to state whether budgetary meetings were part of the consultative agenda. The responses were cross tabulated across the four wards and results indicated in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9: Rate of Inclusion of Budgetary Meetings as Part of the Consultative Agenda

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Yes	COUNT	9	6	8	14	37
	%	19.1%	12.8%	17.0%	29.8%	78.7%
No	COUNT	1	4	3	2	10
	%	2.1%	8.5%	6.4%	4.3%	21.3%
Count	COUNT	10	10	11	16	47
% of total	%	21.3%	21.3%	23.4%	34%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.9 exhibits that the respondents across the four wards agreed that budgetary processes part of consultative agenda as evidenced by higher percentages compared to of those that disagreed. The overall percentage of those that agreed was 78.8% meaning that budgetary meetings were well integrated into consultative forums across the four wards which are Ingwamiti (19.1%), Mukogodo West (12.8%), Segera (17.0%) and Thingithu (29.8%).

4.4 How the Extent of Involvement Affects the Budget Making Process

In order to establish whether involvement of the people contribute to an efficient budget making process, the study hypothesized that public involvement helps in addressing priority concerns in budget making processes. The role of public involvement in addressing priority concerns in the budget making process were measured by determining committees that are mostly involved in the budget making process and the methods used by the committees to support budgetary processes.

4.4.1 The Committees mostly involved in the Budgeting Processes at Ward Level

The study sought to establish the committees that are mostly involved on budgeting processes at ward level. The respondents were asked to state the mostly involved committees on budgeting processes at ward level. The responses were then cross tabulated by wards and results presented in Table 4.10 below.

Table 4.10: Committees mostly involved in the Budgeting Processes at Ward Level

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Ward development Committees	COUNT	11	6	11	15	43
	%	21.2%	11.5%	21.2%	28.8%	82.7%
Village committees	COUNT	1	1	0	3	5
	%	1.9%	1.9%	0	5.8%	9.6%
Facility committees	COUNT	1	1	2	0	4
	%	1.9%	1.9%	3.8%	0	7.7%
Count	COUNT	13	8	13	18	52
% of total	%	25%	15.4%	25%	34.6%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.10 cites the most involved committees were ward development committees with an overall percentage of 82.7% across the four wards. Ward development

committees were the most involved across the four wards while other forms of committees such as village committees and facility committees were either less utilized or completely missing for instance in Segera and Thingithu ward respectively. The highest involvement in ward development committees as compared to others is attributed to the existence of good involvement frameworks that apportion a percentage of the total development budget to be fully informed by the citizens at ward level and the remainder by sector priorities (World Bank Group, 2017) and therefore the presence and engagement by different stakeholders in ensuring that citizens are actively involved in the budget making processes have significantly improved citizen participation in the budget making process across the four wards.

4.4.2 The most applied Method in Supporting Budgetary Processes

In order to establish the most used methods in supporting budgetary processes in the county, the respondents were asked to indicate the methods used to support the budgetary processes by these committees.

The responses were cross tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.11 below.

Table 4.11: Methods mostly applied in Supporting Budgetary Processes

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Public barazas	COUNT	12	8	14	14	48
	%	21.8%	14.5%	25.5%	25.5%	87.3%
Periodic Meetings	COUNT	1	1	1	3	6
	%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	5.5%	1.9%
Occasional Meetings	COUNT	0	0	0	1	1
	%	0	0	0	1.8%	1.8%
Count	COUNT	13	9	15	18	55
% of total	%	23.6%	16.4%	27.3%	32.7%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.11 shows the most applied method of supporting budgetary processes across the four wards. These were either through public barazas, periodic meetings or occasional meetings.

The table reveals that public barazas were the most used methods used across the four wards to support budgetary processes as evidenced by an overall percentage of 87.3%. The highest utilization of public barazas was at Segera and Thingithu wards at 25.5% while Mukogodo west recorded the lowest at 14.5%. The least applied method in supporting budgetary process was an occasional meeting with missing representation in Mukogodo West and Segera ward and Igwamiti. Public barazas were the most utilized since they ensure that the public is directly involved throughout the budget making process. It also ensures that decisions were made in public and executed in line with public aspirations and concerns whereas the promise is that the public will have access to the decision makers and processes and will be given the chance to provide input throughout the process and get feedbacks on the contribution of their input in the decision making process.

From the foregoing, it is evident that a strong correlation exists between the methods used by committees to support budgetary process and the corresponding type of committees that are mostly involved in the budget making process. The presence of different involvement mechanisms such as public barazas, periodic meetings, occasional meetings and different committees for involvement across the four wards show that indeed, the citizens across the four wards are highly involved in the budget making processes.

4.5 The Role of Empowerment of the People in the Budget making Process

In order to establish the role of empowerment in the budget making process, the study hypothesized that empowerment of the public plays a role in the budget making process. The role of empowerment in the budget making process was measured by; asking the respondents to indicate whether or not they had served in the stated committees in the last three years, if they had received any training to undertake their responsibility, to indicate the committees that served them in the budgeting processes in the last three years, whether they had received any sensitization or training by this committees, and to rate the performance of attributes of participatory budgeting on a five point Likert-scale.

4.5.1 Query if Respondents have ever served in any types of Committees in the Last Three Years

In order to establish the whether the public were part of the committees established, the respondents were asked to state whether they had served in the committees stated in the last three years. The results were cross tabulated per wards and results presented as shown in Table 4.12 below.

Table 4.12: Response of whether Respondents have ever served in any forms of Committees in the Last three Years

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Bursary Committee	COUNT	4		5	8	17
	%	10.8%		13.5%	21.6%	45.9%
Enterprise Development Fund committees	COUNT	1	2	1		4
	%	2.7%	5.4%	2.7%		10.8%
Cooperative revolving Fund committees	COUNT	1	1	1	3	6
	%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	8.1%	16.2%
County Budget Economic Forum	0	0	4	1	1	6
	0	0	10.8%	2.7%	2.7%	16.2%
Facility Committees	COUNT	2	0	1	1	4
	%	5.4%	0	2.7%	2.7%	10.8%
Count	COUNT	8	7	9	13	37
% of total	%	21.6%	18.9%	24.3%	35.1%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.12 shows the most the types of committees that the respondents have served in the last three years. The respondents were required to choose from bursary committees, enterprise development fund committees, cooperative revolving fund committees, county budget economic forum committees or facility committees.

From the findings in the table, most respondent had served in bursary committees as indicated by 45.9% and nearly balanced participation in other forms of committees. The fact that the respondents had served in different committees shows that the respondents were empowered to engage in developing, designing and implementing

the different budget making approaches. These findings agree with those of William and Rivenback who opined that failure to empower people to engage in the budget making processes breaks the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and political support and legitimacy (William & Rivenback, 2011) and thus the existence and participation in different empowerment committees show that empowerment processes are indeed alive across the four wards although more should be done to ensure a balanced level of empowerment across the four wards.

4.5.2 Receipt of any Form of Sensitization or Training in the undertaking of Responsibilities

In order to establish whether the public receives any form of sensitization before undertaking their responsibility, the respondents were asked to state whether they had received any form of sensitization before carrying out their responsibility.

The responses were cross tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.13 below.

Table 4.13: Respondents Receipt of any Form of Sensitization or Training in the undertaking of Responsibilities

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Yes	COUNT	6	1	8	7	22
	%	14.6%	2.4%	19.5%	17.1%	53.7%
No	COUNT	3	7	1	8	19
	%	7.3%	17.1%	2.4%	19.5%	46.3%
Count	COUNT	9	8	9	15	41
% of total	%	22%	19.5%	22%	36.6%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.13 exhibits that the majority of the respondents agree that they had received sensitization before carrying out their responsibility as evidenced by 53.7% while 46.3% disagreed. This shows that various forms of sensitizations were being undertaken in the county to empower the citizen to participate more in the budget

making processes so as to come up with more innovative results that incorporate all the participants' knowledge as well as reduced conflict, commitment to ongoing action and greater ownership of outcomes (Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, 2016)

4.5.3 Regularity of the Sensitization meetings and Trainings

In order to establish whether the sensitization meetings and trainings were held regularly, the respondents were asked to indicate the frequency of the meetings.

The responses were cross-tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.14 below.

Table 4.14: Regularity of Sensitization Meetings and Trainings

		IGWAMIT I	MUKOGOD O	SEGER A	THINGITH U	Total
Periodic	COUN T	4	1	3	5	13
	%	14.3%	3.6%	10.7%	17.9%	46.4 %
Occasion al	COUN T	3	4	4	3	14
	%	10.7%	14.3%	14.3%	10.7%	50%
Adhoc	COUN T	0	0	0	1	1
	%	0	0	0	36%	3.4%
Count	COUN T	7	5	7	9	28
% of total	%	25%	17.9%	25%	32.1%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.14 exhibits that occasional meetings were the most common across the four wards as evidenced by a cumulative mean of 50%, followed by periodic 46.6% while the least were adhoc meetings at 3.4%. Sensitization meetings were the most frequently attended since empowerment attempts to make the public the core decision makers in the budget making process (Public Participation Network).

4.5.4 Committees Providing Service on the Budgetary Processes

In order to establish the committees that provided most service on the budgetary processes, the respondents were asked to indicate the.

The responses were cross tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.15 below.

Table 4.15: Committees that Provided Service to Respondents on Budgetary Processes for the Last Three Years

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Bursary committee	COUNT	5	0	7	3	15
	%	11.4%	0	15.9%	6.8%	34.1%
Enterprise Development Fund committees	COUNT	0	2	0	1	3
	%	0	4.5%	0	2.3%	6.8%
Cooperative revolving Fund committees	COUNT		1	0	3	4
	%	0	2.3%	0	68%	9.1%
County Budget Economic Forum	COUNT	7	4	4	7	22
	%	15.9%	9.1%	9.1%	15.7%	50%
Facility committees	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2.3%		0	0	0	2.3%
	COUNT	12	7	11	14	44
	%	27.3%	15.9%	25%	31.8%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.15 shows the committees that had served the respondents in the last three years. This were bursary committees, enterprise development fund committees, cooperative revolving fund committees, county budget economic forum committees or facility committees

The table shows that most respondents constituting 50% had been served by County Budget Economic Forum followed by bursary committees 34.1% while Cooperative

Revolving Fund Committee and Enterprise Development Fund Committee 6.8% and 9.1% had served the least respectively. The highest level of service by County Budget Economic Forum is because this group is more empowered to steer participatory budgeting processes at County levels through various progressive interventions. Such concerns include institutional structures, processes and externalities all that affect quality and level of influence in participatory budgeting (World Bank Group, 2017).

4.5.5 Delivery of Sensitization or Training from Service providing Committees

In order to establish whether the committees providing service on the budgetary processes provide sensitization and training, the respondents were asked to indicate if they had received any sensitization or training from these committees. The responses were cross-tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.16 below.

Table 4.16: Receipt of Sensitization or Training from the Committees Providing Service

		IGWAMITI	MUKOGODO	SEGERA	THINGITHU	Total
Yes	COUNT	6	1	4	6	17
	%	11.5%	3.8%	7.7%	11.5%	32.7%
No	COUNT	6	7	11	11	35
	%	11.5%	13.5%	21.2%	21.2%	67.3%
Count	COUNT	12	8	15	17	52
% of total	%	23.1%	15.4%	28.8%	32.7%	100%

Source: Author

Table 4.16 above shows the responses of the respondents when asked to state as to whether they had received any training or service from the service delivering committees.

The table displays that majority of the respondents 67.3% had not received any form of sensitization from the committee providing service. This shows that committees either deliberately ignored this vital step or possessed limited capacity for effective delivery of their mandates in informing budgetary processes (Office of the Controller of Budget, 2017)

4.6 Rating of the Participatory Budget Process

In order to rate the participatory budget process basing on the experience of the respondents across the four wards, they were asked to rate the some six set attributes on the four processes of participatory budgeting processes that they have interacted with in the last three years, expressed in a five point likert scale and findings presented using means and standard deviations. The attributes were; helpfulness of information shared, effectiveness of information shared, adequacy level of consultations, level of community ownership, contribution level of committees, and the usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings. The responses were cross tabulated by wards and results shown in Table 4.17 below.

Table 4.17: Rating of the Participatory Budget Process

Attribute	IGWAMITI WARD		MUKOGODO WEST WARD		SEGERA WARD		THINGITHU WARD		Overall mean
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
Helpfulness of information shared	2.83	1.04	2.22	0.83	2.82	0.88	2.84	1.02	2.68
Effectiveness of information shared	2.58	1.02	2.11	0.78	2.29	0.69	2.60	1.00	2.4
Adequacy level of consultation	2.48	0.91	2.22	0.83	2.52	0.94	2.50	0.89	2.43
Level of community ownership	2.58	0.96	2.22	0.97	2.42	1.00	2.65	0.99	2.47
Contribution level of committees	2.79	1.03	2.11	1.05	2.47	0.88	2.75	1.02	2.53
Usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings	2.63	1.21	2.33	1.00	4.53	2.43	2.65	1.18	3.04
Average	2.64	1.03	2.20	0.91	2.84	1.14	2.67	1.00	2.59

Source: Author

Key

M – Mean

SD – Standard Deviation

Table 4.17 above shows the ratings of the different attributes namely helpfulness of information shared, effectiveness of information shared, adequacy level of consultations, level of community ownership, contribution level of committees, and the usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings across the four wards.

In Igwamati ward, the findings on the attributes indicated that; the helpfulness of information shared recorded a mean of 2.83 and standard deviation of 1.04, effectiveness of information shared had a mean of 2.57 and standard deviation of 1.02, adequacy level of consultations indicated a 2.47 mean and 0.90 standard deviation, level of community ownership recorded a 2.58 and standard deviation of 0.96, contribution level of committees mean of 2.79 and standard deviation of 1.03, while usefulness of sensitization meetings registered a mean of 2.63 and standard deviation of 2.21. The overall mean and standard deviation recorded was 2.64 and 1.03 respectively. The overall mean of 2.64 implies that the respondents from Igwamiti Ward agree to a moderate extent that the four processes of participatory budgeting exist. A lot therefore needs to be done so that the citizens from Igwamiti are fully content with the participatory budgeting processes through developing new information networks and platforms or increasing the efficiency of the existing ones so as to disburse all the relevant information regarding budget making more easily and timely.

In Mukogodo West ward, the findings of the attributes indicated that on average, all the six attributes were rated as fair as indicated by a mean of between 2.11 and standard deviation of 2.33. Usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings had the highest mean of 2.33 while effectiveness of information shared and contribution level of committees had the lowest mean at 2.11. Apart from contribution level of committees and usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings, the other four attributes had a standard deviation of less than one implying that most of the respondents agreed on the rating of the attribute. The low average mean implies that participatory budgeting in Mukogodo West is low and citizens from this ward are less involved in participatory budgeting. This could still be explained by its location in a

marginalized section of Laikipia County thus lack access to various platforms of participatory budget making.

In Segera Ward, the findings of the attributes indicated that on average, all the six attributes were rated as fair as indicated by an average mean of 2.84 and standard deviation of 1.137. Usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings had the highest mean of 4.529 while effectiveness of information shared and contribution level of committees had the lowest mean at 2.2941. Apart from contribution, level of ownership, and usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings, the other four attributes had a standard deviation of less than one implying that most of the respondents agreed on the rating of the attribute. The average mean of 2.84 in Segera lies above the average and imply that most respondents had interacted with participatory budgeting processes in the last three years but more still needs to be done to increase participatory budgeting in the ward. Undertaking more sensitization on the need for participation in the budget making and developing more structures and resources to allow the people to get more involved in budget making could do this.

In Thingithu Ward, the findings of the attributes indicated that on average, all the six attributes were rated as fair as indicated by an average mean of 2.67 and standard deviation of 0.79. Usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings had the highest mean of 3.000.while effectiveness of information shared and contribution level of committees had the lowest mean at 2.5385. Apart from usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings, the other four attributes had a standard deviation of less than one implying that most of the respondents agreed on the rating of the attribute. The overall mean of 2.67 in Segera mean that although the respondents agree to a

moderate extent that they had interacted with budget making processes, more effort is required to increase participatory budgeting in Thingithu.

When the six attributes namely helpfulness of information shared, effectiveness of information shared, adequacy level of consultations, level of community ownership, contribution level of committees, and the usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings are observed individually across the four wards, it is evident that majority of the respondents agree that the information shared has been helpful as evidenced by a mean of 2.68. Information sharing in the participatory processes is vital since it facilitates understanding, transparency and accountability in both governance processes as well as actual service delivery as purported by Mosei (2010).

On the effectiveness of the information shared, Most of the respondents from Thingithu agreed that the information shared was effective in enhancing participatory budgeting as evidenced by a mean of 2.60 while a few respondents in Mukogodo West agreed as evidenced by a mean of 2.11. The fact that most respondents in Mukogodo West rated could its location in a marginalized zone thus little access to information sharing platforms. However, a mean of 2.4 was obtained on this attribute meaning the effectiveness of the information shared was fair in Laikipia County. Thus more needs to be done to increase the effectiveness of shared information in the county for example delivering more tangible and useful information that increase the participation in budget making.

On the adequacy of the consultation level, it was rated as fair by most respondents across the four wards as evidenced by a mean of 2.43 thus needs to be done to improve the level of consultation in relation to participatory budget making since

consultation keeps the public informed and provides feedback on how public input affected the budget making decision.

The respondents across the four wards also fairly agree that there is a substantial level of community ownership as evidenced by an overall mean of 2.47 and thus more should be done to involve the citizens in participatory budgeting so that they can provide input to the process and thus a feeling of ownership

Majority of the respondents agree that sensitization and training in meetings and trainings were useful in enhancing the participatory budget making processes as evidenced by an overall mean of 3.04. These findings conform with a section of the Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance which purport that training yields more innovative results that incorporate all the participants' knowledge as well as reduced conflict, commitment to ongoing action and greater ownership of outcomes (Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, 2016). Therefore, empowerment of the population plays a key role in the budget making process.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The chapter presents a summary of findings of the study on the role of public participation in enhancing budget making process in the case of Laikipia County, Kenya. The findings were presented based on the objectives of the study namely; how information sharing affects the budget making process, the role of consultation in the budget making process, how the extent of involvement affect the budget making process, and the role of empowerment of the people in the budget making process. The key findings were summarized and presented as per objective as shown below;

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study showed that public participation has positive influence on the budget making process in Laikipia County. The specific findings based on the objectives of the study were as follows:

5.1.1 How Information Sharing affects the Budget Making Process

In order to establish the objective, the study hypothesized that the higher the information shared, the higher the likelihood of an individual to participate in the budget making fora. First, the study established that the attendance level to public meetings was high in Thingithu ward followed by Segera while Mukogodo West had the lowest attendance. Secondly it was also established that across the four wards most of the respondents had attended the meetings at the ward level while at the County level meetings were the list attended. Thirdly, the study found out that the frequency of the respondents attending meeting was high in Thingithu ward and low

in Mukogodo West. Further the nature of the agenda of the meetings was mostly on budget formulation and bursary allocation across the four wards. Finally the study found out that the most shared mode of information sharing was both oral and written across the four wards. Our objective was partially achieved because low number of information sharing modes occasions the lowest attendance of public participation meetings in some wards for instance in Mukogodo West.

5.1.2 The Role of Consultation in the Budget Making Process

In order to establish the objective, the study hypothesized that adequate consultative meeting between the government and the citizen led to ownership of the process of the budget making by the citizenry. First, the study found out that the most consulted government officers in the budget making process across the four wards were ward administrator. Secondly the study deduced that more respondents from Thingithu Ward had attended consultative forums at the ward level while respondents from Mukogodo West ward had recorded lowest attendance. Third, the study established that respondents across the four wards agreed partially that budgetary processes are part of consultative agenda. Our objective was therefore partially achieved because some government officers in the study were not widely consulted by the public.

5.1.3 How the Extent of Involvement affects the Budget Making Process

In order to establish the objective, the study hypothesized that public involvement helps in addressing priority concerns in budget making processes. First, the study established that the most involved committees across the four wards were the ward development committees while village and facility committees were less involved. Secondly, public barazas were the widely used methods of involvement across the four wards that supported budgetary processes. Our objective was partially achieved

in that the citizen was not fully involved in other methods of budgetary processes other than public barazas.

5.1.4 The Role of Empowerment of the People in the Budget Making Process

In order to establish the objective, the study hypothesized that empowerment of the public places the final decision making to the public. First, the study established that the committees that had served the citizens across the four wards in the last three years were budget economic forum and bursary committees. Secondly the study found that majority of the respondents across the four wards had agreed that they received regularly occasional sensitization trainings before carrying out their responsibilities. Our objective was achieved in that there was a strong correlation between the methods used by committees to support budgetary process and the corresponding type of committees that are mostly involved in the budget making process

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that public participation plays a key role in the budget making process across the four wards in Laikipia County through; appropriate modes of information sharing, established consultations mechanisms, coupled up with involvement and empowerment of the populace in the budget making process.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Policy Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the study recommended the following to the policy makers

The study recommended that more appropriate information sharing modes should be utilized in order to enhance the likelihood of individuals participating in the budget making fora. Further there should be increased transparency and wider access to the meetings through adoption of different modes of information sharing. Finally the meetings should be regularized and publicized in advance and local leaders should be utilized to mobilize participation.

Secondly, Ward administrators should be sensitized/trained regularly on the how to organize public participation meetings, who should attend and the agenda to be deliberated on because they are the most consulted officers by the citizens. They handle the administrative matters at ward level thus the citizens consult them on several issues, which lead to consolidation of community input and views into policy and obtainment of feedback on how public input affected the budget making decision.

Thirdly, the public barazas used by the ward development committees to support budgetary process should target the common mwananchi. The Committee should involve people who are well conversant with the social, economic and cultural activities of the people. The groups involved should be those that are likely to be affected by the development agenda.

Finally, the public should be trained /sensitized regularly on the budgetary processes to enable them make the right decisions.

5.3.2 Academic Recommendations

This study confined itself in establishing how information sharing, consultation, public involvement and empowerment influence budget-making process in Laikipia County. The study however did not study all the factors that influence the budget making process and so the researcher recommends that future studies should focus on i) Institutional structures, processes and externalities that affect quality and level of influence in participatory budgeting and ii) Other factors that influence the budget making process in Laikipia County such as governance, bills formulation among others.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

AGNES NKALIA KESHINE

P.O BOX 1512-10400

NANYUKI

DATE...../...../2018

Dear Respondent,

RE: Fostering Public Participation in the Budget Making Processes in Laikipia County.

I am a student at the University of Nairobi Reg No C51/81384/2015) Department of Political Science and Public Administration Nairobi Campus, pursuing a Master's degree programme in Public Administration and carrying out research entitled ' Fostering Public Participation in the Budget Making Processes in Laikipia County, Kenya'

You have been selected to be part of the study and your inputs will be highly recognized. The attached questionnaire requests you to kindly provide honest and precise responses as much as possible. Data obtained from you or your institution/facility will be treated with utmost confidentiality and used for academic purposes intended.

Your co-operation and time will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance

Yours Sincerely

Agnes Nkalia Keshine

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENTS IN FOSTERING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET MAKING PROCESSES

This questionnaire is to be completed by community leaders and members of public in relation to “Fostering Public Participation in Budget Making Processes in Laikipia”. The purpose is to investigate the role of information sharing, consultations, involvement and empowerment in fostering better participatory budgeting processes in Laikipia. Kindly respond to questions as honestly and precisely as possible.

SECTION A

PERSONAL DETAILS

- 1. Indicate your gender: (a) Male (b) Female
- 2. Indicate your age: (a) Below 20 years (b) 20-29 years (c) 30-39 years
(d) 40-49 years (e) 50-59 years (f) above 60 years
- 3. Indicate your residential area.....Constituency.....Ward

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION

- 4. What is your occupation? (a) Business (b) Farming (c) Employment in Public Institutions/Service (d) Employment in Private Firms/Farms (e) Self Employment (f) Any Other Specify.....
- 5. Highest education attainment: (a) Primary certificate (b) Secondary certificate (c) College Diploma (d) University Degree (e) Any Other Specify.....

SECTION B

PART ONE

INFORMATION SHARING PROCESSES

6. Have you ever attended a public participation meeting? (a) Yes and (b) No

7. If yes, at what level? (a) Village (b) Ward (c) Constituency

(d) County

8. If yes, how many times? Indicate number.....

9. What was the nature or agenda of the meeting?.....

10. What was the mode of information shared? (a) Oral (b) Written (c)

Both oral and Written (d) Access from County Website (e) Any Other Specify.....

11. Your recommendations on information sharing in fostering participatory budgeting processes.....

PART TWO

CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES

12. Who are the mostly consulted government officers on budgeting processes at the ward level?

(a) Chiefs (b) Ward Administrators (c) Members of County

Assembly (d) Extension Officers (d) Facility Managers (health,

market, schools and water) (e) Any other.....

13. Have you ever attended a ward level stakeholders' consultative forum? (a) Yes

(b) No

14. If yes, how many times? Indicate number

15. Was budgetary processes part of the agenda? (a) Yes (b) No

16. Your recommendations on consultative platforms in fostering participatory budgeting processes.....

PART THREE

INVOLVEMENT PROCESSES

17. Which committees are mostly involved on budgeting processes at the ward level?

(a) Ward Development Committees (b) Village Committees (c) Facility committees (health, market, schools, water) (d) Any Other.....

18. What methods are used to support budgetary processes by these committees?

(a) Public barazas (b) Periodic meetings (c) Occasional meetings
(d) Adhoc meetings (e) Any other.....

19. Your recommendations on modalities used by committees involved in fostering participatory budgeting processes.....

PART FOUR

EMPOWERMENT PROCESSES

20. Have you served in any of these committees in the last three years at the ward level?

(a) Bursary Committee (b) Enterprise Development Fund Committee (c)
Cooperative Revolving Fund Committee (d) County Budget Economic Forum
(e) Facility committees(health, market, schools, water) (f)Any Other.....

21. Did you receive any sensitization or training to undertake your responsibility? (a)

Yes (b) No

22. If Yes, how regular were the sensitization meetings or trainings?

(a) Periodic (b) Occasional (c) Adhoc (d) Any

Other.....

23. Which committees have served you on budgeting processes at the ward level in the last three years?

(a) Bursary Committee (b) Enterprise Development Fund Committee

Cooperative Revolving Fund Committee (d) County Budget Economic Forum

(e) Facility committees(health, market, schools, water) (f)Any

Other.....

24. Did you receive any sensitization or training from the committees?

(a) Yes (b) No

25. Your recommendations on sensitization meetings and trainings in fostering participatory budgeting

processes.....

26. Rate the following attributes on the four processes of participatory budgeting processes that you have interacted with in the last three years. Use the scale of 5-1 where 5=Excellent 4=Very Good 3=Good 2=Fair 1=Poor

Attribute	5= Excellent	4= Very Good	3= Good	2= Fair	1= Poor
Helpfulness of information shared					
Effectiveness of information shared					
Adequacy level of consultations					
Level of community ownership					
Contribution level of committees					
Usefulness of sensitization meetings or trainings					

Thanking you for your co-operation and time