COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WARD DEVELOPMENT FUND (WDF) PROJECTS IN HARAMBEE WARD, MAKADARA SUB-COUNTY

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTEOF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMNTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

2020

DECLARATION

This dissertation is my original work and has not been submitted to any other University for examination.

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This dissertation has been submitted for examination with our approval as the University Supervisors.

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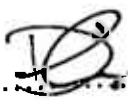Signature .... Date..12|02|2020...

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family; my loving parents Mr. Walter Mukungu and Gloria Wakoli, my sister Yvonne Semo. Your invaluable love and support has seen me through this academic journey. This journey would not have been completed without your sacrifices along the way, be blessed.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBEFs	County Budget and Economic Forums
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CDFC	Constituency Development Fund Committee
CMC	County Management Committee
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
CRC	Covenant on the Rights of the Child
DRFDS	District Focus for Rural Development Strategy
ESC	The Economic and Social council
ESRC	Economic and Social Rights Centre
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
ICCPR	International Covenant on Economic Social and political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICPAK	Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya
IAGAS	Institute of Anthropology Gender and African studies
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
IEBC	Interim Independent Electoral Commission
KADU	Kenya African Democratic Union
KANU	Kenya African National Union
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
KIPPRA	Kenya Policy for Public Policy Research and Analysis
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KSG	Kenya School of Government
LASDAP	Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan
LATF	Local Authority Transfer Fund

MCA	Member of County Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NCC	Nairobi City County
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
PFM	Public Finance Management
PLWD	People Living With Disabilities
SID	Society for International Development
SPAN	Social and Public Accountability Network
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SRDP	Special Rural Development Programme
TISA	The Institute for Social Accountability
RDA	Regional Development Authorities
WDF	Ward Development Fund
WDFC	Ward Development Fund Committee

ABSTRACT

This was a cross-sectional mixed method study on community participation in Ward Development Fund (WDF) in Harambee ward, Makadara Sub-County, Nairobi City County. The study examined the level of awareness and knowledge of WDF, the mode of participation and degree of inclusivity and the constraints to participation in WDF projects. The study population comprised of Harambee ward residents considered as beneficiaries of the WDF funded projects. A sample of 200 respondents from Harambee ward was selected randomly to participate in the survey. Four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and four Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were also conducted. The FGD participants were purposively selected because of their locations in the ward while the key informants were sampled purposively due to their knowledge and position in the ward. The study was guided by the Structuration theory. The quantitative data was analysed using SPSS while qualitative data was thematically analysed using NViVO. The findings indicate that there is generally a high awareness level of WDF among Harambee ward residents at 91.6%. However, the knowledge on the specific details of WDF in relation to the disbursed amount, the cost of the project is still very low at 17.3%. This limited knowledge on disbursed funds has an effect on the level of accountability and transparency in funds utilization. Furthermore, community members were not being included in the monitoring and evaluation phases of projects since they lacked knowledge on the WDF operations. As a result, the projects have been inequitably spread across the wards and reflect an element of abuse of power and corruption by those who have been tasked with the management of the fund. The involvement of women and people living with disability (PLWD) in these projects is done in a passive manner. Significant challenges to active participation included lack of capacity building, lack of flow of information, political appointments of the management committee, lack of community training and social audits and poor redress mechanisms. Therefore, the study recommends elaborate advocacy and sensitization of the community members on their rights, duties and responsibilities. This could be done through the development of advocacy materials containing the needed participation and how to do so and to demand for inclusion. The management team also requires training on effective management skills and people involvement. Additionally, the study recommends that the community members be imparted with skills that can enable them to conduct social audits and demand accountability. The findings of the social audits can enable those tasked with managing the fund to have feedback on the kind of policies and programmes to formulate or change for the better.

1.0 CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The notion of community participation in their development has been gaining traction in the process of human empowerment. Contemporary development scholars have been advocating for inclusion of people in development projects because the success of any development undertaking is dependent on the meaningful participation of the people (Constantino, 1982). It is argued that people's participation in development projects help in bringing effective social change as opposed to imposed projects (Stone, 1989). As a concept, participation varies with its application, definition as well as context. For some it is a matter of principle, for others it is a matter of practice or an end in itself (World Bank, 1995). One of the strategies adopted in local development to ensure people's participation is through decentralisation.

The concept of community participation originated some years back from the community development movements of the late colonial era in parts of Africa and Asia (McCommon, 1993). Today, it has developed as one of the major models considered as the basis for project success in development. The World Bank (2004) considers participation as a process whereby the stakeholders get to influence and share controls over development initiative as well as control over decisions and resources. Globally, governments are now accepting community participation as an important tool to solve the problems that exist in the community. However, communities rarely own the projects (World Bank, 2004).

Kenya has been making constant shifts over the years in terms of its governance structure; from a centralized to a decentralized form of governance. This was necessitated by the drawbacks that are usually part of a centralized system of

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government that include but are not limited to misappropriation of public resources, marginalization of the local communities and administrative bureaucracy. According to Kazuya (2005), a decentralized system of government entails bringing the decisions closer to the citizens and the process is regarded as one that transfers function, responsibilities, power and resources. Devolution is a form of decentralization where there is transfer of administrative power and function from the centre to the periphery. Following these shifts, the government devolved specific funds and decision making authority to constituencies (Kazuya, 2005).

A devolved fund structure is of the notion that people living within a particular region are aware of the costs and benefits that arise from public service and as such, the resources meant for public service should be left to the local people to enhance their preference for public expenditure. A number of decentralised programs were put up in place by the government to address the challenges of a centralised system among them the District Focus for Rural Development (1983-1984), District Development Planning (1971), District Development Grant Program (1966), Constituency Development Fund (2003) among others. Though created for a noble course, these programs have faced issues of elite capture and corruption (Kadiagalla and Mitulla, 2004).

Having adopted a devolved system of governance in August 2010, the county governments seem very far from bringing together the systems and processes necessary to deliver their mandate in an effective manner. Evidently, there is a huge problem of wastage of public resources between the two levels of government. This goes against the principle of devolution which is to bring the resources to the people (Tumo, 2017). This kind of a structure capitalises on the bottom-up planning which allows for real problems and real needs to be identified by the community members. Consequently, it

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provides an opportunity for the lives of the community members to be improved. However, the greatest challenge usually comes in trying to increase the capacity for community members to make use of the opportunities (Omia, 2011). The provisions in the constitution of Kenya state that counties are supposed to ensure effective mechanisms that will allow community members to participate and meaningfully engage in the planning process. This necessitates face to face engagements between the citizens and the government (CoK, 2010).

It is from this background that attention is drawn to the Ward Development Fund (WDF) of Nairobi City County. The Nairobi City County Wards Development Fund was established through the Nairobi City County Wards Development Fund Act, 2014 as published in the Kenya gazette supplement no.4 (Act No.1) of February 2014. The main reason why this fund was created was to foster development at the ward level by financing various specific projects with an ultimate goal of improving the lives of the community members (NCC, 2014).This particular fund can be compared to the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) formerly known as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) (Githinji, 2017). Whereas CDF devolved national funds to constituencies, WDF devolves county funds to wards. The Nairobi WDF Act grants each Member of County Assembly (MCA) the power to come up with the fund and become the *ex-officio* member of the committee. Any project that is funded by WDF must go through an auditing process and the projects should reflect in the Development Plans. In case a project does not reflect in the Development plan, then no budgetary allocations will be made. This fund is administered by an officer under the directions of the County Management Committee (CMC).

The County Management Committee (CMC) is comprised of the Chief Officer of the County department who is in charge of matters on finance and planning, Chief Officer

of the County department who is responsible for matters relating to public works, four people qualified in matters relating to finance, accounting, development, engineering and economics, a member of the County Executive Committee responsible for legal matters who is a ex-officio member and the officer administering the funds who is also an ex-officio member (NCC, 2014) The Officer administering the fund is in charge of all assets and liabilities of the WDF in the wards. He/she countersigns all payment vouchers, prepares and maintains accounting documents as well as keeping all records related to the funds at the ward level. The CMC ensures allocation and disbursement of fund in every ward and proper management of the funds. This committee also considers project proposals submitted for various wards and continually review, oversee the implementation, policy framework and legislative matters that may arise in relation to the fund. The project proposals are forwarded to this committee by the Ward Development Fund Committee (WDFC) (NCC, 2014).

The Ward Development Fund Committee (WDFC) is made up of a chairperson, who is nominated by the elected Member of County Assembly (MCA), two female representatives of which one is a youth, two male representatives of which one is a youth, an NGO representative, one representative for the special interest groups, the ward administrator who is the secretary and the Member of County Assembly who is an *ex-officio* member of the committee. This committee deliberates on project proposals from the ward and any other project which the committee considers beneficial to the ward. This committee ranks the projects in order of priority (both immediate and long term projects) then forwards the proposals to the County Management Committee (CMC) (NCC, 2014). If for any reason the CMC does not approve a proposal submitted to it, it refers the matter to WDFC giving reasons as to why it has declined the proposal.

An elected MCA constitutes and convenes the WDFC according to the provisions in the WDF Act (WDF Act, 2014). According to the WDF Act, the WDFCO should hold consultative meetings at least six times in a year and not exceed twenty four times in every financial year. The MCA also submit approved projects in their Wards to the County Assembly. Since 2014/2015 financial year, a huge sum of money was allocated for the WDF. For instance, the Nairobi City County MCAs allocated Kshs. 2.9 billion towards the fund in the 2014/2015 financial year. This is almost ten per cent of the county budget during that particular financial year (Githinji, 2017).

One major concern that surrounds this fund is the issue of separation of powers. The Ward Development Fund kitty in the various counties is usually subject to numerous wars between the MCAs and the County Executives who manage and/or implement the fund. These wars often result to the County Assembly refusing to pass the budget. The MCAs always want to have a final say in what projects will benefit the community members yet the Act clearly stipulates their oversight role. This automatically results to a conflict of interest (Tumo, 2017).

WDF is a participatory fund and collected as a percentage of the ordinary government revenue which is from taxation. This means that every Kenyan contributes towards WDF and therefore, for it to be successful, members of the public and community member groups including the poor must be involved in all its stages through: being informed about WDF, participating in WDF meetings in their locations, supporting, monitoring and reporting cases of abuse on WDF. This particular study explored community participation in the Ward Development Fund projects in Harambee Ward, Makadara Sub-County focusing on the knowledge and level of awareness on WDF

policies, modes of participation, level of inclusivity in ward forums and barriers to community participation in WDF projects.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In most developing countries, projects are considered to be the backbone of local development. Most of these projects are usually undertaken with the sole purpose of improving the livelihoods of the community members (Khwaja, 2004). The effective management of development projects always depends on thorough project selection, the project design, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the project. In Kenya, there have been deliberate attempts by the national government to distribute resources equally through the county governments. This requires some element of participation from the community members as pointed out in the constitution (Mukabi et al., 2015). Understanding the concept of participation from the onset of a project is very key as it ensures proper monitoring and evaluation of the projects to be implemented. WDF was created to help mitigate poverty at the grassroots level by funding specific project (NCC, 2014). The major principle underlying devolved funds including WDF is the participation of people so that at the end of the day, we have a needs-responsive developmental undertaking. However, effective participation of the people in the implementation of devolved funds still remains just but an illusion.

A participatory culture has not been established. Information concerning the projects is hardly disseminated to the community members and an effective evaluation structure has not been fully institutionalized to be able to capture the opinions of the beneficiaries. According to TISA (2010), the lack of effective structures for people's participation has been a major constrain on development. The kind of participation by community members has not really attained the right level that qualifies to imply full

participation (TISA, 2010). According to Sirgy, Phillips & Rahtz (2011), a sense of ownership is created when the community is fully engaged. In order to achieve the desired outcome of any project done for the community, there has to be active participation by the community members.

Previous studies by Anderson and McFarlane (2010) and Phillips and Pittman (2009) have observed that full participation can be achieved if the community is included in decisions that touch on planning and also be active in the implementation phase. The aspect of community participation plays a huge role in aspects of democracy, combating exclusion of those who are marginalized or disadvantaged and in empowering the community members. Despite the government making an effort in introducing devolved funds in Kenya, the influence of the initiative is yet to be experienced in many counties in Kenya. The existence of the devolved funds seem to elicit little concern at the community level yet these funds as are meant to bring changes in respect to community development.

Existing literature on devolved funds has placed a lot of emphasis on the kind of challenges that are experienced with devolved funds; however, there exists a great information gap on the real influence of community participation (Brown, 2011). There was therefore, need to find out the reasons that prevent effective participation of people in WDF projects.

To this end, the study explored the level of community participation in Ward Development funded projects in Harambee Ward, Makadara Sub-county. To address this objective, the study was guided by the following research questions:

    i.   What is the level of awareness and knowledge of WDF operations and policies by community members in Harambee ward?

ii. What is the mode of participation and degree of inclusivity in WDF projects by community members?

iii. What are the challenges to active participation of community members in the WDF projects in Harambee ward?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective was to explore the level of community participation in WDF funded projects in Harambee ward, Makadara sub-county.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

i. To determine the level of awareness and knowledge of WDF operations and policies by community members.

ii. To find out the mode of participation and the level of inclusivity in the WDF projects by community members.

iii. To establish the challenges faced by community members in the process of participation in the WDF projects.

1.4 Assumptions of the Study

i. Community members in Harambee ward have little knowledge and awareness on the operations and policies of WDF and associated projects thus low participation

ii. The modes of participation and the degree of inclusivity does not fully incorporate the realities of the community members in WDF development projects in Harambee ward

iii. There are a number of challenges that hinder the participation of community members in WDF projects in Harambee ward.

1.5 Justification of the Study

The studies done on public participation indicate that the poor performance of the funds can be credited to the different challenges observed among them being the lack of effective participation by the community members in the different project cycles from prioritization through to implementation (Mapesa and Kibua, 2006). Similarly, a study by the Parliamentary Budget Office Kenya in 2011 indicated a lack of transparency and accountability when it came to managing these devolved funds. The expenditures and cash balances are usually not accounted for nor documented for audit purposes (ICPAK, 2014).

The findings of this study are of importance to those who formulate policies on revenue allocation as required by law, as part of their mandate in formation of the fund committee. The study can inform policy formulation in regards to making amendments in streamlining the WDF management team by ensuring multifaceted participation.

The Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other international development agencies who would wish to engage in community projects will find this study useful in regards to a more inclusive form of participation with women, youths and persons living with disabilities being incorporated in their projects or programs. This ensures a balanced approach towards the success of the project.

The results from this study serve as a basis for the development of a programme in resource management of the decentralized funds and could provide a model for such programmes in the different counties across Kenya where community participation and involvement in managing the fund is paramount as it ensures sustainability.

The findings of the study also add to the academic knowledge to scholars with particular interest on community participation in decentralized funds, and underscoring the importance of participation as a key ingredient for empowering communities. This means that participation should be interactive where the beneficiaries play an active role in all the phases of a project.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was cross-sectional and descriptive in nature, carried out in Harambee ward, Makadara sub-county, Nairobi City County. It looked into community members in Harambee ward in relation to their participation in WDF projects. The reason for this is because, one cannot underestimate the potential of using information to improve people's input in development especially when their different realities are captured in their immediate setting. Therefore, the study looked keenly into the awareness and knowledge of community members about WDF policies and operations, strategies of their participation in WDF projects, the level of inclusivity in the ward community's engagement framework in light of WDF and the challenges community members face in an attempt to constructively participate in WDF projects in this ward.

The study was limited to the residents of the ward and more so the beneficiaries of WDF projects. The study also encountered some ethical limitations given the nature of my study. Since it touches on aspects to do with money which is usually a sensitive issue, some of those who were tasked to manage the funds refused to be interviewed citing that they did not want to be audited despite the clarity provided to them at the onset during the introduction of the study.

1.7 Definition of key terms

Agency: the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices.

Beneficiary: A person who is directly involved with the project and benefits from it.

Community: residents living in Harambee ward and registered as voters.

County Management Committee: County Ward Development Fund agency established by section 5 of WDF act that manages the fund.

Development: improvement of the people's livelihood as a result of taking part in the process of managing socio-economic affairs.

Devolution: the act of giving power from a central authority or government to an authority or government in a local region.

Fund: the financial provision under Ward development fund.

Participation: meaningful involvement in decision making processes in implementing programmes and evaluation of programmes under WDF.

Projects: the socio-economic activities funded by the ward development fund.

Structure: a set of rules and resources which influence or limit the choices and opportunities available.

Ward: an electoral zone represented at the County Assembly by the Member of County Assembly (MCA).

Ward Development Fund: county government allocation based on not less than 5% of the revenue and redistribution at the ward level.

Ward Development Fund Committee: the agency established under section 35 of the WDF act that deliberates on projects and proposals at the ward level.

2.0 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, literature pertaining to the study topic is reviewed guided by the objectives of the study in order to have an overall understanding of community participation in WDF projects. Historical and current overview of community participation in Kenya, elements of community participation in current devolved structure, awareness and knowledge on WDF policies/regulations and composition of the ward committee's forum are reviewed. The chapter finally presents the theory that guided the study as well as the conceptual framework.

2.2 Historical Overview of Community Participation in Devolved Funds in Kenya

In the Kenyan context, participatory development began with and was for a long time limited to community development projects (Wakwabubi and Shiverenje, 2003). At independence, a system of devolution known as *majimbo was* initiated by the government (Omia, 2011). The system authorized the local authorities to collect taxes and maintain the local infrastructure such as the hospitals and minor roads. With the coming together of the then opposition party Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) in 1964 with Kenya African National Union (KANU) the ruling party by then, the centralized system of government was entrenched. Various development committees were put in place to facilitate coordination of the development activities at the provincial and district level (Kenya, 1965).

In 1971, Kenya started an integrated decentralized planning under the Special Rural Development Programme (SRDP) that was mainly focused at the sub-district level as an experiment on decentralization mainly to increase employment and welfare. Consequently in the 1970s and 1980s, six Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) were established aiming at coordinating the implementation of regional development

activities and also promoting the social and economic development. This was in a bid to ensure equitable development based on the natural resources in the six regions (Omia, 2011).

However, courtesy of the integrated nature of their activities, there was a lot of duplication of roles with the other partners. They had been in operation without a very clear framework for community participation in the different project phases. In 1983, the government made an attempt to expand the decentralised development to all districts in Kenya by adopting the District Focus for Rural Development Strategy (DFRDS). The initiative encountered challenges in implementation due to lack of an Act that would entrench the coordinating committees in law. This only allowed them to operate administratively rather than legally (Omolo, 2011).

Moving forward, the Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) and the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) have majorly characterised community participation at the local levels. The former was established in 2001 through a ministerial circular whereas the CDF was established in the year 2003 through The CDF Act (Omolo, 2011). Kibua and Oyugi 2006 point out that LASDAP provided the chance for the local authorities to meaningfully engage with the community members on aspects such as planning, budgeting and so on (Ministry of Local Government, 2009). On the other hand, the CDF creates an opportunity for community members to take part in development initiatives through the committees. The implementation committee is usually made up of local stakeholders (Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009).

The weak management of these funds as noted in various studies on devolved funds has significantly affected the success of CDF and LASDAP. With the implementation of devolution, there is indeed a greater need for clear mechanism that highlights the

community's interest so as to enhance participation. In light of this, focus is shifted to the Ward Development Fund (WDF) that was established through an Act of the County government with a purpose of promoting development at the ward level.

2.2.1 Elements of Community Participation in Current Devolved Structure

The concept of community participation which can also be described as citizen participation or public participation really varies with application as well as definition. The definitions range from the passive reception of benefits from programmes to people actively and consciously making the decisions concerning the programme and the activities that come with it. Wasilwa (2015) defined community participation as the process whereby citizens are able to act in response to public concerns and are able to take responsibility for changes experienced in their community. Brager, Specht and Torczyner (1987) defined participation as a way of educating citizens and increasing their competence. They also looked at this process as a means through which transfer of political power is carried out. Community/public participation has also been defined as a process where citizens are involved in identifying their local priorities, the policies and programs that require resource allocation (Brillantes & Sonco, 2005 cited in ESRC, 2017).

The concept of community participation has been a constant theme in the development arena. During the 1960s and 1970s, community participation became central to development projects as a marker of sustainability and equity. In the development discourse, community participation refers to a process where the beneficiaries actually influence how development projects are carried out as opposed to being mere recipients of the benefits from the projects (Wasilwa, 2015). The great works of Chambers on community participation in 1983, led to inclusion of participation as an aspect of

empowerment and also a means through which the power gain control over decisions (Chambers, 1983).

Globally, a number of international legal instruments have pointed out the right of community members to participate in aspects of governance. For instance, The Universal Declaration on Human Rights points out that each and every individual has a right to partake in the government of their country either directly or indirectly. Equally, the International Covenant on Civil, Social and political Rights (ICCPR) adopted in 1966 and came into force 1967, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) adopted in 1966 and came into force in 1967, The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Banjul Charter) adopted in 1981 and came into force in 1986 and the Covenant on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted in 1989 and came into force in 1990, have all emphasized the idea of community participation (Bosire and Gikonyo, 2015). The Economic and Social Council (ESC) has also observed that programs which are done without active participation of those affected are most unlikely to succeed (ESRC, 2017).

Locally, a major theme in the constitution of Kenya is community participation. Deliberate and meaningful participation in matters governance is considered a key ingredient in the public reforms instituted by the constitution of Kenya in 2010. Other legislative pieces that anchor devolution brings out the principles of citizen participation. These include County Government Act, 2012, Urban Areas and cities Act, 2011, The Public Finance Management Act, 2014, The Nairobi County Public Participation Act, 2015, Access to Information Act, 2016 and the last but not least is the Draft Devolution Policy, 2015 (ESRC, 2017). Combined, these provisions provide a platform for citizen participation in the devolved governance (Ghai, 2015).

The big question always remains to be how do we get community members to participate actively? Participation runs deeper than just informing the community members or asking for their views/opinions. The core of participation is the ability to be able to impact the outcome. Therefore, the first pre-requisite is having the right information. The County Government Acts sets out principles for participation which include a timely access to information. The community members should be able to seek redress and particularly the groups considered as being marginalised traditionally such as women, the youth and the people living with disabilities (PLWDs). The counties are supposed to conduct civic education at the county level and members are also required to have a pro-active approach in the participation process (Kenya, 2012).

2.2.2 Awareness and Knowledge of WDF Operations and Policies by Community

According to Ogola (2009), majority of the Kenyan citizens have very little knowledge or lack an interest in the initiatives carried out to spearhead development through the bottom-up approach. A report by KIPPRA (2008) indicates that there is a low awareness of the responsibilities in the governance of the funds and as a result poor performance or total failure of the devolved funds. Occasionally, there are deliberate attempts to lock out citizen participation for example through postponing of meetings or even not advertising (Oyugi and Kibua, 2006). A failure in disclosing the information that pertains to local development provides an opportunity for corrupt activities (TISA, 2010).

Generally, the level of knowledge and community participation in the devolved funds has been low with minimal impact on the quality of lives of the community members being witnessed (Kituo cha Sheria, 2008). A study carried out by IEA on the CDF indicated that majority of the citizens are aware of the fund (85%). However, when it comes to the specific knowledge of the regulations of CDF, only 21% of the community

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members knew about the cost of the projects and the amount disbursed (IEA, 2006). Equally, a study by KHRC and SPAN (2010) indicated that the awareness level of the citizen was high at 96% but their level of involvement was very low at 39%.

There still remains a lot of work to be done so as to educate the community members on their roles in matters development through devolved funds (In this case WDF) in order to ease aspects of planning by the local people (KIPPRA, 2008). The chairperson of the WDF committee is mandated by law to hold meetings in the ward where community members can have deliberations on on-going projects (Karani, 2017). The community members have a duty to monitor the projects and also report any anomalies. However, this is dependent on the kind of information around the policies of the fund.

2.2.3 Levels/Typologies of Participation

According to Leeuwis (2000), typologies of participation refer to the different ways in which participation is understood and seen in a particular setting. The typologies can be looked at in terms of the levels or forms of participation which can be explained in relation to the distribution of decision making authority between the interventionist and the people considered as beneficiaries in matters development (Leeuwis, 2000). Seeing that people apply forms of participation differently, the scope and effectiveness of the development projects are in turn affected (Cornwall, 2000). In this section, different levels of participation are going to be discussed. These particular levels are very key in terms of how they enable the beneficiaries to participate in projects and whether they are able to reach the intended masses.

One form of participation is **information transfer.** This includes a development agency informing the intended beneficiaries about the project that is to be implemented. In this case, decision about the projects and their subsequent implementation are normally

done by the development agency without really involving the people who are concerned. The people are involved by just listening to what the development agency has already decided on (Pretty, 1995). Since the aspect of decision making and control are located somewhere else, this form of participation does not really give the people concerned (the right bearers in WDF) the power to actually prioritize their needs in project matters that affect them.

The other form of participation is **optimum participation** which points out the need to pay close attention to the different contexts so as to determine the kind of participation that makes sense. This also takes into consideration paying closer attention to those partaking in the process and those who do not either via deliberate exclusion or self-exclusion (Mikkelsen, 2005).

Manipulation as another form of participation involves some form of pretence but in real sense, there is no real power given to those who are supposed to benefit. In this case, this form of participation does not give the community members any chance to say their needs or even their priorities in WDF management.

The other form is **consultative participation** where there is some efforts in trying to understand a community's opinion/perspective. Here, the people are able to participate by answering questions while the experts define the problem through collection of information (Pretty, 1995). Although the flow of information is equal with the agency often using the local knowledge, the aspect of control is still from top-down (Lane, 1995). Furthermore, the external development agency is not mandated to change/modify projects in light of people's priorities. Therefore, the idea of control being at the top may end up constraining the opinions of community members from influencing decisions in the management of WDF.

Another form of participation is **material motivation** where people are involved in a project in exchange for money or some sort of payment. Under this form, sometimes people take part by contributing resources but are not involved in any other way (Pretty, 1995). This form of participation can have negative ramifications on the sustainability of the project. This is because dependency ends up being created on the outside resources and community members may not support projects when incentives end. This kind of participation is usually seen in some of the development programmes where the government provides subsidies trying to cushion the poor. However, the target groups are usually limited to those that are able to afford the contribution thus leaving out various categories of community members with different capacities socio-economically.

Functional participation is another form of participation where the beneficiaries are active but on a specific activity only. In this case, people can actively engage but only after the major decisions have been made (Pretty, 1995). This means that the beneficiaries are not given real power to make actual changes to plans that were already prepared by development agencies. Instead, they only get to work in the implementation process and only minor changes to detail are made if at all. In particular, this form of participation does not recognize the different segments of poor people and the possible socio-economic dynamics of the community members to contribute to WDF projects in different ways.

The other form of participation is **interactive participation** in which the beneficiaries play a very direct and active role in the project planning. This takes place where a group is involved in the decision making process from the initial phase to the last phase. Here, the people get to have a joint analysis development of the action plans (Pretty, 1995). Under this kind of participation, the people affected by the development project get to

determine how the available resources are utilized. This enables people to take control of the development process. The needs of the community members are considered first and participation is not viewed as a way of improving projects but as a process that empowers community members. This type of participation has the potential to give opportunities to the people to actually make decisions that will ultimately better their livelihoods.

Lastly, there is **self-mobilization** as a form of participation where people get to start their own projects. Usually, a community controls the decision making and rallies its own resources and members for support. Occasionally, external development agencies facilitate and support people's effort to carry out their projects. The people may ask the external development institutions for guidance and resources but get to decide the use of these resources (Pretty, 1995). Both control and information are basically upward from a community to an agency (Lane, 1995). This form of participation has the potential to empower the community to have a voice in the development projects particularly the ones funded by the WDF.

According to Pretty (1995), low levels of participation like awareness raising, information sharing and consultation are superficial and thus have no lasting impact on the lives of the community members, while the higher levels of participation like functional, interactive and self-mobilization have the potential to make a lasting difference in people's lives through empowerment of its participants. Therefore, it is fundamental to outline the type of participation used in relation to project planning in order to avoid confusing the kind of participation used in a given development context. In this particular study, the importance is placed on how participation in WDF projects takes place and whether it gives a voice to the community members.

2.2.4 Challenges Faced by Community Members in Participation

Following the shift in the governance structure in Kenya, the citizen-state relationship has been re-defined. Devolution has a created a platform on which community/citizen participation has been fore-grounded. Although the counties are required to facilitate the process of community participation, there is a disconnect between the legal provisions and the actual implementation (KSG, 2015). A working paper by KSG (2015) highlighted the fact that lack of basic information on the devolved funds is a great challenge. The community members actually reported the difficulty that comes with obtaining information around local development programs, procedures and finances as well. The paper noted that even though across the different counties, there has been progress of varied nature to facilitate public communication as well as access to information, there are still various shortfalls. Although most of the counties have a website in place, the contents of these websites are still wanting and communicates very little. Few counties have posted their budgets, their financial strategies or expenditure reports for instance (KSG, 2015).

The lack of capacity is also another challenge in regards to decentralised funds. Since the WDF mirrors the CDF, it is bound to encounter such challenges. A study conducted by IPAR (2006) indicates that, apart from a few exceptions, the members of the CDF committees were found to be incompetent technically and lacked basic understanding of how the fund operates. This also supports the findings of the study conducted in Harambee ward. Majority of the people managing the fund lack an understanding of how the devolved funds operate and have limited capacity in terms of encouraging participation in the different project cycles (IPAR, 2006).

In as much as devolution is considered as having the potential to benefit the community members, it is highly unlikely that it will have any effect if there is lack of information and the relevant capacity. A genuine involvement of the people deciding and determining their own development is what would make the process to succeed and spur sustainable development (KSG, 2015).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Structuration Theory

The theoretical orientation of this study is drawn from Anthony Giddens' Structuration theory. Giddens (1984) focuses on the dialectic between agency and structure, looking at how structure influences agency and in return how agency influences structure. This theory deals with the analysis of the production and reproduction of social systems (Giddens, 1984). A central theme of this theory is the "duality of structure". This principle maintains that social structures are both produced by human action and are the medium of human action. This therefore, means that the behaviours of the social actors produce and reproduce social structures (which Giddens defines as a set of rules and resources), yet those same behavioural choices are simultaneously influenced by the existing set of structures. Thus, any single action taken by actors has an impact and the system of rules is nothing more than the total of such actions taken by all actors who are part of that system (Giddens, 1984).

The concept of community participation readily translates into the language of this particular theory. First, participation entails acquisition of the relevant information about the issue at hand along with the possible solutions and this constitutes the accumulation of resources (knowledge). The criteria used to process this kind of knowledge are rules (normative standards for measuring value) (Norton, 2007). Secondly, the rights and responsibilities that come with participation constitutes a

cluster of rules that include democratic power relations (for example, enough opportunity for each of the represented community member to contribute and the right to understand the discussion coupled with the responsibility of what others have to say) (Norton, 2007).

In essence, Structuration theory is a useful lens for understanding community participation as it provides the linkage between the already existing micro practices and macro-structural considerations. That is to say, the very act of participating can change the structures of society that have power over participation and vice versa (Norton, 2007).

Giddens' Structuration theory is greatly concerned with the interplay of the agents' action and social structures in the production, reproduction and regulation of any social order. Critical to Giddens' work is emphasis on the individual's power of agency. According to Giddens (1984), human beings are knowledgeable beings and have agency... 'they routinely and for the most part maintain a continuing understanding of the grounds of their activity' (Giddens, 1984: 5). Individuals are not just social dupes, but existential beings who reflexively monitor and provide rationale for the character of the ongoing flow of their social life. Participation in this sense is the role of agency in processing experience and shaping action and the role of structure in both enabling and constraining such actions (Giddens, 1984).

Norton (2007), highlights the fact that current assessments of community participation rules and resources are overly focused on the institutional power over processes that inhibit participation. Such kind of assessments typically follows the critiquing path of the failure of structure to capture genuine participation (Norton, 2007:158). In the same light, Doelle and Sinclair (2005) have pointed out the fixation on the process which can

actually discourage participation. According to Doelle and Sinclair (2005), the process often fails to educate, inform and build capacity within the community to participate.

2.3.2 Relevance of Structuration Theory to the study

Structuration theory gives an explanation of the interplay of day to-day interactions on one hand and of macro-processes of social and political change on the other hand. Prefarably conceptualized at the level of institutional arrangements as the interplay between the agent and the structural level. Actors in this case are seen to have and exercise power but are always embedded in socially constructed structures e.g. in terms of institutions.

This theory is relevant to this study as it highlights the fact that to strengthen work with institutions in participatory development, a much better understanding is needed of the local norms of decision making and representation and how people may indirectly affect the outcomes without direct participation. Institutionalization in the management of WDF are necessary conditions in achieving transparency, accountability and avoiding project overlaps as well as breaking participation barriers by clearly stating roles of the different stakeholders. This approach emphasize the idea of agency and this puts the community members at the center of the development process (directly, through their advocates, or through organizations of civil society). The aim is to give people the capabilities and access needed to change their lives and improve their own communities. Another important role that is brought about by the theory is the need for information availability and flow. For agency of the individual and the community at large to be enhanced, there is always the need for a system to be open and avail all the necessary information relevant for action taking. The managers of the WDF must in this context, be open, transparent and accountable to the people on whose behalf they are presiding over the functions of the ward.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework that guided this study is shown in Fig. 2.1. The framework contains the links between the levels of awareness and knowledge, modes of participation and level of inclusivity and the associating challenges affecting community participation in the various WDF projects.

A conceptual framework indicates a series of interrelated concepts, which can be implicit or explicit. In this study, the independent variables under investigation were the level of awareness and knowledge of community members on WDF, the mode of participation and the challenges to effective participation while the dependent variable was the level of community participation in WDF funded projects. The intervening variable was the constitutional aspects of community participation in governance. The analytical approach of this study is based on the framework of Structuration. This framework emphasizes on the interplay of the agents' action and the structures that are either enabling or restricting. There is an emphasis of on the agency of community members.

The independent variables that are interrelated in bringing about participation in the WDF projects in Harambee ward are in the following areas: civic awareness on the projects, information on the benefits of the projects, knowledge on the operation of WDF, active participation which includes all residents without discriminating on the gender or physical abilities. Local participation enables the identification of the unique needs of the community. Failure to involve the community may result to project failure. The lack of information and capacity to be able to monitor the funds properly is the major hindrance to active participation. Monitoring and evaluation of the projects which can be done through social audit is key as it seeks to evaluate how well the public

resources are being utilized and how well they can improve in identified weak areas. The residents should also be involved in the decision making process in the WDF since the WDF Act stipulates that the community has the right to nominate its representative to the project committee.

Level of awareness and Knowledge

- Project information
- Benefits of participation
- Civic awareness

Mode of participation and level of inclusivity in the Ward engagement forum

- Quality of participation
- Level s of participation
- Inclusiveness

Challenges to meaningful participation in WDF
- Lack of capacity
- Lack of information

Operationalization of the constitution on community participation in governance

Intervening variable

Community Participation in WDF projects
- Types of participation
- Who participates
- How is participation occurring

Independent Variables

Dependent Variable

Source: Author's construct based on literature reviewed.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

3.0 CHAPTER THREE: METHOLODOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology that was used in this study. It includes a description of the research site, study design, study population, sample population and sampling procedures, data collection methods and the methods that were used for data processing and analysis. In addition, it also discusses the ethical considerations that were observed in the process of the study.

3.2 Research Site

This study was conducted in Makadara Sub-County, Harambee ward. Makadara sub-county is one of the sub-counties in Nairobi City County. The population of the Sub-county stands at 218,641 persons (KNBS, 2009). It is an electoral constituency in Kenya and has an area of approximately 13 square kilometres (map 3.1). This sub-county is situated on the eastern part of Nairobi County and it is a residential as well as an area where business thrives. A huge number of small business enterprises characterize this region particular around Industrial area where several factories and industries are located. It is estimated that 60% of the Nairobi City County population lives in the slums under high levels of inequality with almost half (49%) of the poor being concentrated in 3 sub-counties; Makadara sub-county being the highest with 108,000 individuals living under the poverty line (KNBS, 2016). The major ethnic groups that predominantly exist in this area are the Kikuyu, Luhya and Luo.

Administratively, this sub-county comprises of four County Assembly wards namely Maringo/Hamza, Viwandani, Harambee and Makongeni South wards (Soft Kenya, 2012). Viwandani and Makongeni wards host informal settlements for the very poor. Minimal livestock keeping and farming are undertaken due to lack of land and most housing belongs to the county government. Harambee ward which has two sub-

locations (Harambee and Lumumba-Jericho sub locations) is approximately 2.60 square kilometres with a population of 54,703. According to IEBC (2017), there are 18,651 registered voters in Harambee ward. The ward has a larger female population than male and the youth group between (15-34) years represent 46% of the total population. This forms the most active age in the population (KNBS & SID, 2014). WDF in this sub-county in the different wards serves people with diverse needs; therefore, their needs must be prioritised so that they benefit from the fund

IEBC REVISED MAKADARA CONSTITUENCY COUNTY ASSEMBLY WARDS
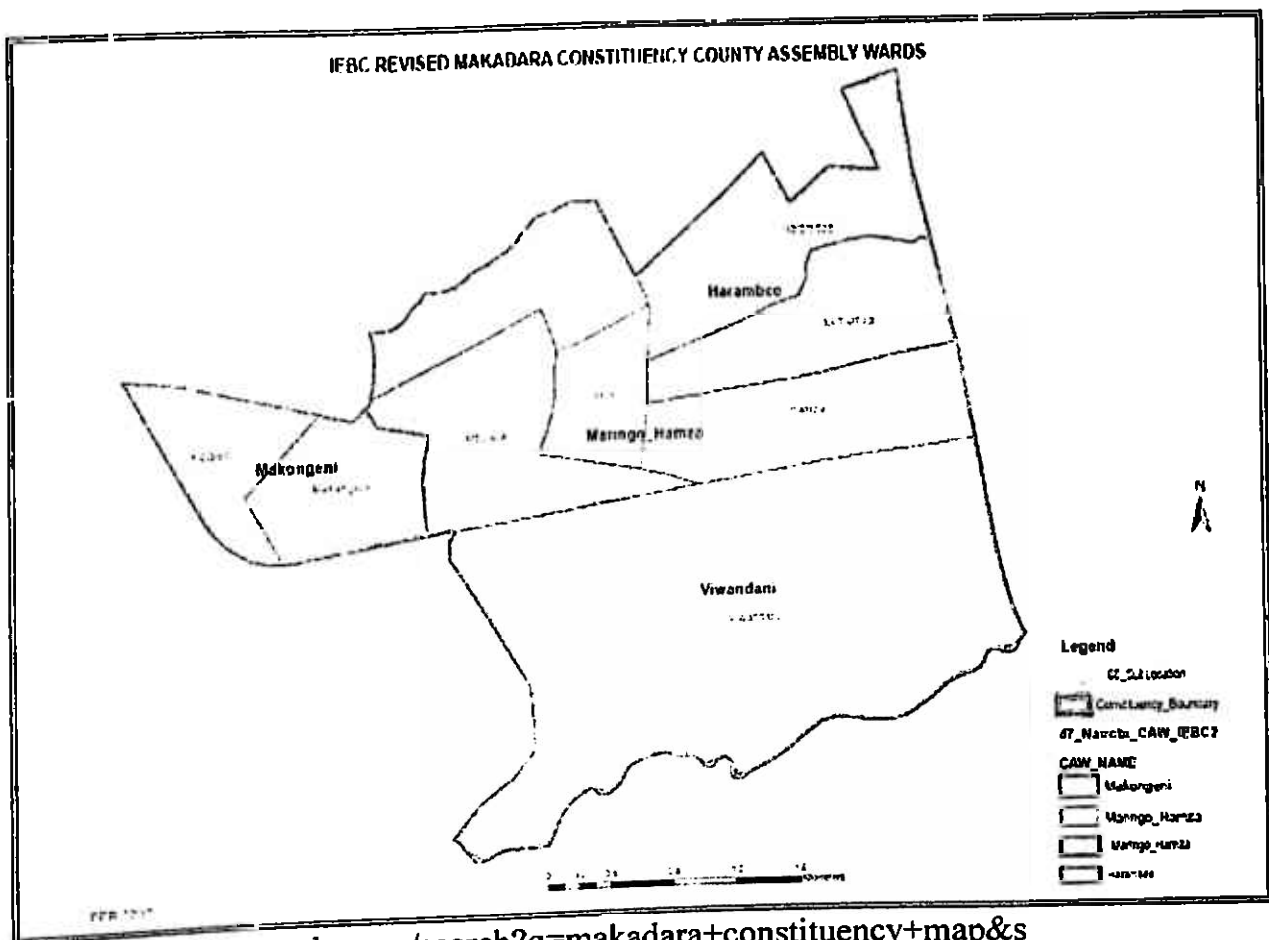
Source: www.google.com/search?q=makadara+constituency+map&s

Figure 3.1 Map of Makadara Sub-County

3.3 Research Design

The study used a cross-sectional descriptive design combining both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study was carried out in two phases all complementing each other. The first phase involved a survey to collect quantitative data. In this phase, 200

structured questionnaires were administered to sampled Harambee ward residents. The information generated from the survey was useful in adjusting the interview guide to bring out issues that had not been touched on during the proposal phase. The second phase involved holding focus group discussions with Harambee ward residents who were beneficiaries (those that participated in the WDF projects) of the WDF projects to obtain qualitative data. The FGDs brought out issues of convergence and divergence on aspects of awareness and knowledge, the modes of participation and the challenges faced in terms of participating in WDF projects. Key informant interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in the WDF management to bring in informed and expert opinion on the study objectives and also to make clarifications on some of the issues that were raised by community members during the FGDs.

3.4 Study Population and Unit of Analysis

The study population included all Harambee ward residents who are registered as voters in the ward and are spread across the two sub-locations of Jericho-Lumumba. The unit of analysis was the individual resident and voter.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

The study used simple random sampling to select the required sample size in each of the two sub-locations. This method gives each unit in the target population a chance to be selected for the study. The sample size was determined by the Yamane formula:

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

Where;

n=is the desired sample size

e= margin of error (as a decimal)

N= population size

$$n = \frac{18651}{1 + 18651(0.07)^2}$$

$$\frac{18651}{92.3899} = 201.8727$$

n=201.8727

n= ~ 200

A sample of 200 respondents was randomly selected for the survey and were subjected to the questionnaire. For the survey recruiting process, the ward voter registration list was used as a sampling frame. This was facilitated by the ward administrator of Harambee Ward. Additionally, there was triangulation through other data collection methods to complement the survey findings. Purposive sampling was adopted to select the FGD participants in Harambee ward for four (4) separate discussions; and a further four (4) key informants were drawn from the local sub-county WDF management institutions and the Member of County Assembly for Harambee Ward. They were purposively selected given their experience and daily indulgence in the operations of WDF in the ward and Sub-county at large.

The respondents were selected from the two sub-locations as shown on table 3.1 below. Harambee sub-location had 97 respondents that took part in the survey while 103 respondents were from Lumumba-Jericho sub-location. The ratio of the sample size per sub-location was calculated using the number of registered voters per sub-location divided by the total population of the ward multiplied by the selected sample size as shown below:

Table 3.1: Sample distribution per sub-location

Sub-location	Number of registered voters	Sample calculation	Sub-total
Harambee	9,046	$\dfrac{9046}{18651} \times 200$	97
Lumumba	9,605	$\dfrac{9605}{18651} \times 200$	103
TOTAL	18651		200

3.6 Data Collection Methods

3.6.1 Survey

Survey questionnaires were filled by the respondents who were randomly selected. The questions in the questionnaires were both open and closed ended allowing for both quantification and qualification of the data collected. A total of 200 structured interviews were conducted face to face using the prepared tool (Appendix 2). The questionnaire was scripted into the KoBo collect application. The decision to use the KoBo application in collecting the data was because it enables one to have a monitoring and evaluation platform as it has time-stamps and geo-location via GPS that allows you to know where and when the data was collected. Also the skip logic further ensured data accuracy. The questionnaires were vital in coming up with information on the demographics of the participants, the participants' knowledge and awareness of WDF policies, the implementation and redress procedures in WDF operations and the kind of ward citizen's engagement framework that exists.

3.6.2 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were conducted in order to add to the understanding of the community participation in Ward Development Fund projects. The discussions provided very useful qualitative data on perceptions and opinions on community

knowledge of WDF policies, participation modes available to community members, the level of inclusivity in the ward community's engagement framework in light of WDF and the constraints faced by the community members in participating in WDF projects in the ward. An FGD guide with set of instructions was used (Appendix 3). Four (4) Focus group discussions were held with participants as follows: twelve (12) female participants at Jericho social hall (Harambee sub-location), ten (10) male participants at Bidii Primary School (Harambee-sub location), eleven (11) male participants at St Joseph's Catholic Church (Lumumba sub-location) and ten (10) female participants in Lumumba hall, (Lumumba sub-location). The FGDs comprised of men and women who were beneficiaries of the WDF projects. The FGDs brought out issues of convergence and divergence on the said topic and helped in verifying some of the information from the survey.

3.6.3 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were carried out with key individuals who included the MCA, the WDF chair, the WDF vice-chairperson and the ward representative. The key informants were very useful in shedding some light on the role of the main actors, the structure of WDF, role of the community in WDF project planning and implementation, sources of information on WDF policies for the community and finally the constraints faced by the communities in realizing meaningful participation in WDF projects. The interview guides for the key informants were written and administered in English. The interviews were recorded and notes were also taken which were later reviewed for accuracy and consistency. A key informant interview guide was used to guide the interviews (Appendix 4).

3.6.4 Secondary Data

The study used secondary information retrieved from books, journals, the internet, the County government's records and documentations, reports on citizens and service delivery and documents containing relevant material on community participation. Some of the key documents used in this study include: TISA (2010), KIPPRA (2008), Omia (2011), Ghai (2015) and KSG (2015). The information explored is with regard to devolved funds in Kenya, their objectives and provisions for community participation. The secondary data have also been used to bring out the discussions arising from previous study findings.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

The study used a mixed method approach to collect data and as such both quantitative and qualitative data processing and analysis methods were used. The quantitative data was first cleaned, coded and then analysed using SPPS software (Version 20).The data was coded by assigning numbers to each response. Open ended questions were classified by major responses based on their similarities and then given a code. This enabled categorical data to be translated into numeric data. Descriptive statistics which include measures of central tendency and distribution were used to analyze the data. Afterwards, the data was presented in form of frequency tables and bar charts.

The qualitative data obtained from the focus group discussions and the key informant interviews were analyzed thematically along the lines of the specific objectives. Open coding was performed on all the transcripts. The process of coding highlighted ideas of association and the point of convergence in the different sections of the data. Once all the data had been coded, the emerging themes were pulled together under 3 subject areas- the level of knowledge and awareness on WDF which also included the sources;

modes of participation and degree of inclusivity in WDF projects; and the challenges faced by community members in the process of participating in WDF projects. Additionally, direct quotations from a few selected responses among the informants were used to explain the patterns and trends observed and to reinforce the quantitative information from the survey.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The necessary approvals required before the research commenced were sought from the relevant bodies. A research permit was granted by the Ministry of Higher Education through National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) reference number (NACOSTI/P/18/66413/26188) issued on 6/11/2018. The sub-county administration also granted the permission through devolution and sub-county administration with the reference number (DSCA/CAO/BNM/16/03/2019) and the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies also approved the proposal before the field work began.

Throughout the fieldwork process, the study respondents were explained to on the purpose of the study, how long it was going to take, the use of the study findings and any other issues that the respondents needed clarification on. The right to participate voluntarily as well as withdrawal at any stage of the interview was spelled out clearly. Upon conducting the FGDs and KIIs, the contents of the consent forms were read out loud to all participants whose responses were recorded on the consent form through their signatures. The respondents were also assured of their anonymity and that the information they gave would be kept private and confidential. All the study participants were informed that there was no direct benefit to individuals that they would get from participating. They were however, informed that their participation was crucial for

purposes of ensuring that the policies were tailor made to enhance their involvement and hence sustainability in terms of the ward projects. Their participation would ensure that their needs are taken into account in future projects for their own good.

The respondents received assurance on the dissemination of the study outcome through the ward administrator. Furthermore, the result of this study will be availed online in the University of Nairobi repository as well as the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies (IAGAS) library for academic purposes.

3.9 Ethical challenges and their solutions

The idea of managing expectations especially on monetary issues was a major challenge during fieldwork. An explanation of the study objectives and how significant the study would be was necessary. Informants were reminded that the study had no immediate compensation. The data collection period came with several challenges that made the process to take longer than planned. There was a lot of bureaucracy in terms of acquiring the necessary approvals at the sub-county level. The back and forth from one administrative office to the next posed as a major challenge. In addition, the process of arranging for interviews with the key informants took a bit longer since access was limited and required advance appointments which could be cancelled without reference to the researcher. During interviews, interruptions were common and patience was necessary including rescheduling interviews that had begun.

Due to the nature of the study, even after having the necessary approval, some of the informants were quite hesitant to take part in the study, some ended up not showing up at all and cited not wanting to be audited despite an explanation of what the study was all about. One of the key informants interviewed had some reservations on being recorded and as such he was assured of his anonymity. Since his input was very crucial

and the only way he could participate in the study was if he was not being recorded, we ended up taking notes which were also helpful.

Another challenge was that the respondents who were selected to be part of the survey could not be located with ease. This was mainly due to obligation that the respondents had which was beyond their control. This meant that more days than those indicated in the work plan were used. To this effect, the discussions were scheduled over the weekends when most of the participants were present.

A number of the respondents also demanded to be compensated for their time and this was not possible since this was a Masters dissertation conducted by a student and the purchase of data was not envisaged and it would also have been ethically wrong. Explanations were given to such respondents and an agreement established hence the smooth completion of the exercise.

4.0 CHAPTER FOUR: STUDY FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings of the study based on the set objectives and research questions at the onset of the exercise. The chapter contains the demographic characteristics of the respondents and further brings out the results of the fieldwork.

4.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents

4.2.1 Age of the respondents

In the study, the age of the respondents was a variable of interest. The findings indicate that majority of the respondents were aged between 34 and 50 years at 49.5%, followed by respondents between 18-33 years old at 38.1% while those at 51 years and above covered 12.4%. The findings are summarised in table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-34 yrs	76	38.1
34-50 yrs	99	49.5
51 + yrs	25	12.4
Total	200	100

4.2.2 Gender of the Respondents

Table 4.2 indicates the respondents' gender and the percentages of the respondents from the 2 selected sub-locations.

Table 4.2: Gender of the Respondents

Sub-location	Male	Female	Total
Lumumba	57(29%)	46(23%)	103(52%)
Harambee	55(27%)	42(21%)	97(48%)
Total	112(56%)	88(44%)	200(100%)

From the table above, it can be deduced that, majority (52%) of the respondents were from Lumumba sub-location while Harambee sub-location had (48%) of the total respondents. There were more male respondents (56%) than female (44%). Lumumba had the highest number of both male and female (29%) and (23%) respectively while Harambee had (27%) and (21%) of male and female respondents respectively.

4.2.3 Level of Education of the Respondents

The level of education of the community members was a variable of interest in this study. The findings indicate that those with no education at all comprised 2.5%, primary school (Incomplete) was 5%, primary school (complete) comprised 4.5%, secondary school (Incomplete) was 8.4%, secondary school (complete) comprised 27.2%, tertiary education (incomplete) 37.1% and those with tertiary education (complete) comprised 15.3%. The findings are summarised in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Level of education of the respondents

Respondents level of education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No education at all	5	2.5
Primary school incomplete	10	5.0
Primary school complete	9	4.5
Secondary school incomplete	17	8.4
Secondary school complete	54	27.2
Tertiary level incomplete	31	15.3
Tertiary level complete	74	37.1
TOTAL	200	100

It should be noted that the level of education determines the level of awareness and therefore, participation in WDF.

4.2.4 Income levels of respondents

In the study, the income level of the residents was of interest. The findings indicate that those who reported low income at below Kshs. 1,000 constituted 23.3%. Informants

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who earned between Kshs. 1,001 and 5,000 comprised 6.9%, those who earned between Ksh. 5,001 and 10,000 comprised 16.3% , those who earned between Kshs. 10,001 and 15,000 comprised of 20.8%, 26.2% earned between Kshs. 15,001 and above and 6.4% refused to disclose their income as summarised in table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Income levels of respondents

Respondents income level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 1000	47	23.3
1001-5000	14	6.9
5001-10000	33	16.3
10001-15000	41	20.8
15001 and above	52	26.2
Refused	13	6.4
Total	200	100

4. 2.5 Duration of residence of the respondents

Table 4.5 indicates the frequencies for the duration of residence of the respondents in the area under study. From the table, it can be deduced that majority of the residents (78.5%) have lived in the area for over ten years. Therefore, they are in a better position to identify the needs of the area and suggest projects that can best help in meeting their needs. The information is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.5: Duration of residence of the respondents

Duration of residence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 5yrs	5	2.5
5-10 yrs	38	19
10 yrs +	157	78.5
TOTAL	200	100

4.3 Level of awareness and Knowledge of WDF operations and policies

The study found out that the level of awareness and knowledge on WDF was at different level as expounded in the following sub-sectors.

4.3.1 Awareness and knowledge about WDF projects

Majority of the residents were aware of the existence of WDF (91.6%). However, the specific knowledge on the cost and amount disbursed for the projects was very low at 17.3%. The knowledge of WDF projects and operations was higher amongst males at 50% compared to 46.8% for the female counterparts. This is summarised in the figure below:
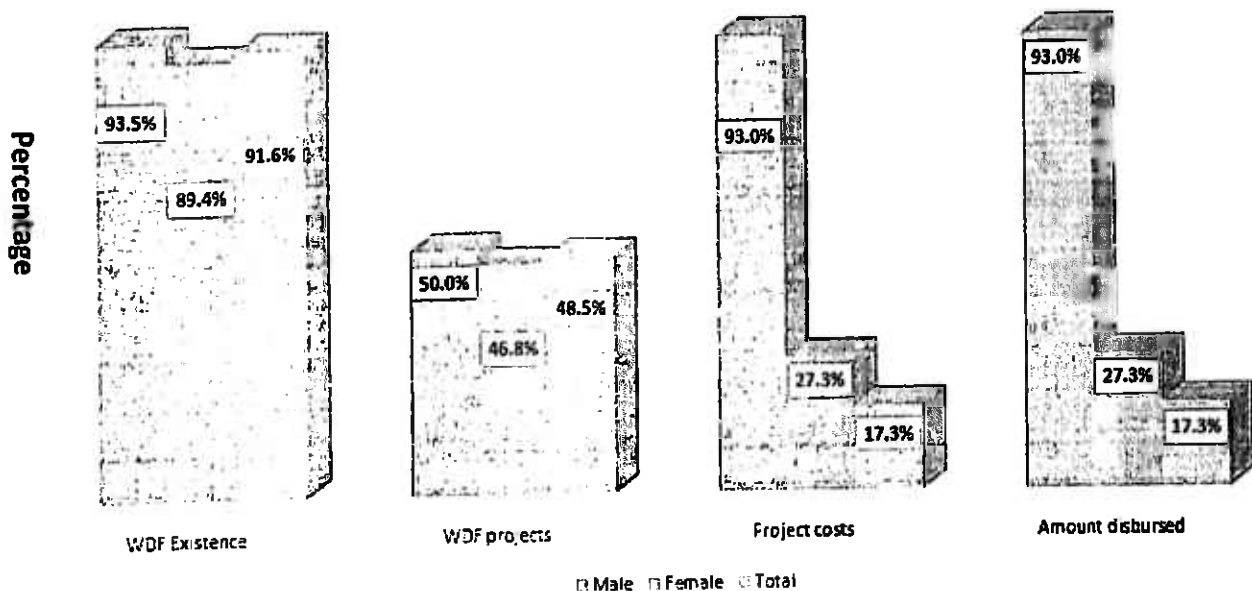
Level of Knowledge and awareness on WDF operations

Figure 4.1: Level of knowledge and awareness on WDF

The findings indicate that there is a low level of knowledge especially when it comes to the operations of the fund. There was a general consensus from the FGD where participants reported they were not aware of how the fund is supposed to operate.

"Although Ward Development Fund is meant to help the residents, most of us do not really know how it operates, " (**Excerpt from 50+ yrs FGD**).

Additionally, the findings revealed that the community members do not know specific details of the WDF projects such as the amount disbursed, or the cost of the implemented projects. Project identification and prioritization as a project phase is done in a passive manner. This is evidenced in the following quotes:

"We can't feel the input because the initial plan was that we should be awarded the projects after implementation. However, the MCA gave them out to groups known to him that had a proposal already written," (**Excerpt from 18-34yrs FGD**).

"They did not even ask our opinion on the location of the projects. They dictated upon the location of the projects as well as the cost," (**Excerpt from 18-34 yrs FGD**).

The key informant interviews also reported that multiple stakeholders including those who are supposed to manage the fund do not really know what this fund is supposed to do at the ward level.

"The selection of who sits in the committee is supposed to involve people who understand policies. Am sorry to say that some of the committee members didn't even know what they were presiding over," (**Committee member**).

Additionally, the lack of interest and or concern by community members which results in low knowledge of WDF operations can be attributed to the activities that the fund has been channelled to. Several projects do not have an immediate impact in terms of improving the lives of individuals; this indicates that the benefits are of a long term nature and thus the opposition from the community as agreed on by FGD participants.

"There are some areas where construction of the toilets would be seen as a great development initiative. It would be counterproductive to construct toilets in this area since it's not of immediate concern and we have plenty of them around. We need development projects that touch on the lives of people such as schools. The unfortunate bit is that we do not have the right information," (Excerpt from 35-50 yrs FGD).

From the voices of the informants above, it is clear that the level of knowledge of the WDF operations and policies is low. Awareness of the policies and regulations of any devolved fund is very vital as it allows the community members to participate fully in the funded projects. A study by KIPPRA (2006) indicates that low knowledge amongst the beneficiaries of the funded projects from devolved funds is a major contributor to the lack of accountability.

4.3.2 Awareness of sources of knowledge on WDF

The findings indicate that majority of the respondents (49%) received information about WDF from community members, 15% through the chief's baraza, 15.1% got the information from reading on notices/posters/newspapers, 9.6% of the respondents received the information from social media, 4.4% through knowledge of WDF Act, while 6.4% heard from other sources (Figure 4.2 and 4.3 below)
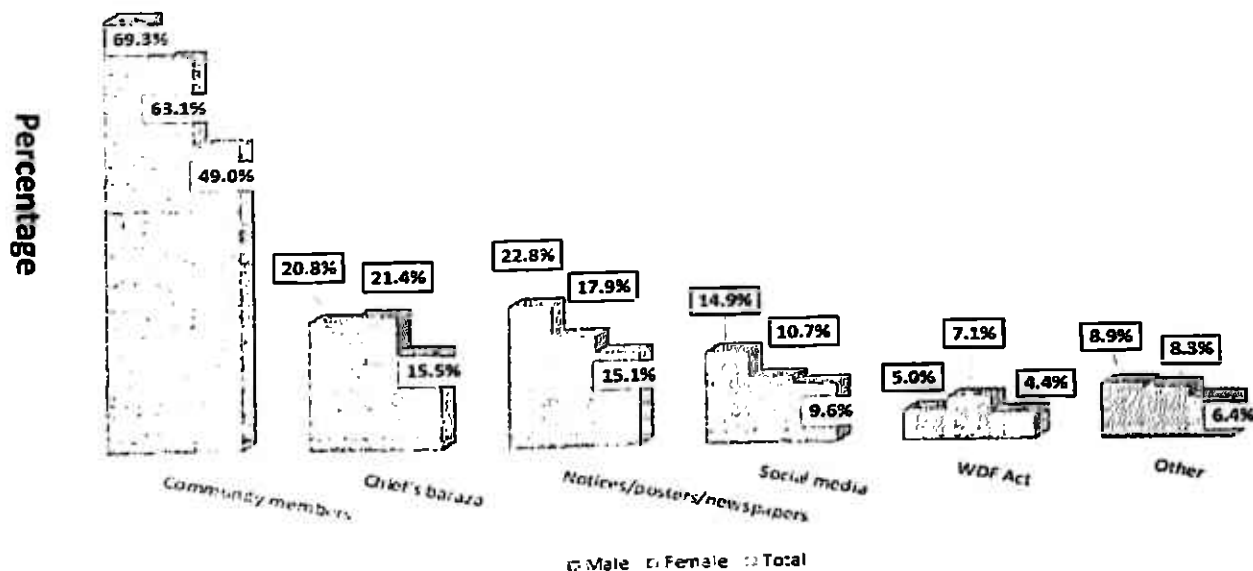
Sources of Knowledge on WDF

Figure 4.2: Sources oi knowicuge on WDF
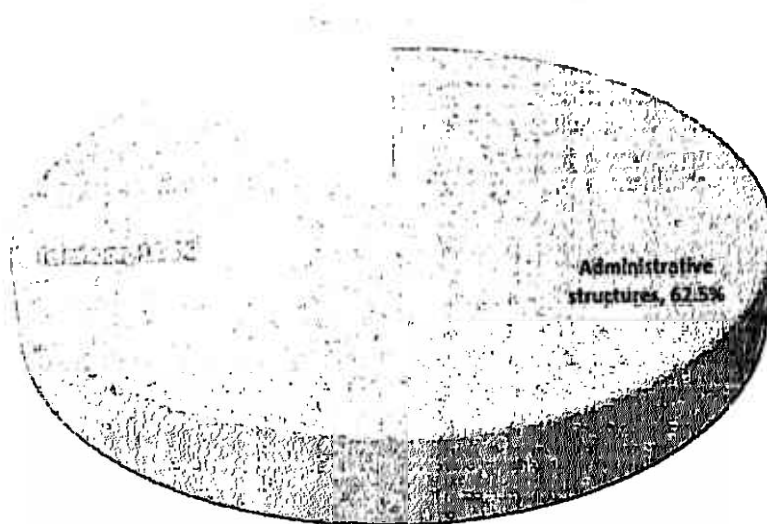
Figure 4.3: Other sources of knowledge

Sources of information through which the community members got to learn about WDF

and how it operates was also one of the issues the study sought to tease out. The reason

for this is because the source that is most accessible is very vital in coming up with

ways in which community members can seek clarification on the fund, its policies and

operations and how the community members can participate in the projects funded by WDF.

The various sources on WDF as noted by the respondents were cited due to reasons such as ease of use, accessibility and the authoritativeness of the source. Ease of access of information from other community members were some of the reasons given for members preferring this source. The community members also believed that the chief's baraza and the newspapers/notices/posters are authoritative sources compared to social media which is sometimes prone to fake news and limited information. However, the respondents believed that the social media as a source is convenient and easy to use as long as you have a phone, the respondents pointed out that the common page for the residents of Harambee ward is easy to access by almost every person as evidenced below:

"There is a facebook page called 'Jericho in my heart', if you just convey that message in that group, you have reached so many people especially those who are in a position to access the internet". (**Excerpt from 18-34 yrs FGD**).

Informants who cited WDF Act as a source of information on the fund were members of the WDF management team or had higher education levels. Additionally, it was noted that the administrative structures as a source of information are not so popular with the youth as they associated his office with lack of openness and a lot of secrecy in the area and not a place to get information on WDF which is for the common good.

4.3.3 Awareness of type of WDF projects that have been implemented

Table 4.6 indicates the frequency of the type of projects the residents are aware of as having been implemented in the area.

Table 4.6: Types of projects implemented

Type of projects	Frequency	Percentage
Public toilets	15	7.5
Modern shops	86	43
Health	13	6.5
Education	25	12.5
Water	5	2.5
Car wash	56	28
TOTAL	200	100

From the table above, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents (43%) had seen modern shops being implemented in the area, 28% had witnessed car wash projects being implemented, those who had seen education projects being implemented by WDF were 12.5%, respondents who had seen public toilets being implemented consisted of 7.5% while those that had seen health projects being implemented consisted of 6.5% and lastly those that had seen water projects being implemented were 2.5%.

Awareness of the policies and regulations is very vital in community participating in the funded projects. A Structuration model of public participation looks at this aspect as ontological competency (Giddens, 1984). This point to the fact that participant's willingness to get involved in the projects is necessitated by how much they know about the issue at hand so that they can participate meaningfully (Norton, 2007). Community participation needs at least some basic working knowledge about the nature of the projects and how to get involved in those particular projects. Respondents also cited aspects to do with transparency and this was also pegged to the fact that they are not aware and/or knowledgeable enough about the WDF funded projects.

Only a small percentage (17.3%) seemed to have an idea of the amount the projects actually cost and how much was disbursed for the financial years that the projects were implemented. Studies discussed in the literature review point out that low knowledge

amongst the beneficiaries of the funded projects from devolved funds is a major contributor to the lack of accountability (KIPPRA, 2006). This then translates to the lack of transparency and accountability in managing the devolved funds at the ward level.

It is not only the community members that do not have the necessary information on WDF, the findings indicated that the institutions in charge of managing the funds and by default community participation processes, seemed to lack the basic knowledge as to how the fund should trickle down to the beneficiaries. The capacity to facilitate meetings to encourage stakeholder dialogue and other communication related skills were obviously lacking as per some of the responses received. In the development discourse on matters participation, the discussion is usually around participatory gaps and failed outcomes but not much on the institutional organisational processes that determine the use/disuse of the available participatory mechanisms which would then determine genuine participation (Norton, 2007). McGlasnan & Williamson (2003) argue that there is indeed a need to examine the competence of both the community members as well as the institutions that are tasked to manage the fund. Current literature mostly focuses on the knowledge or lack therefore of the participating citizens and little is done to explore the competence of the managing agents (McGlasnan & Williamson, 2003). The situation in Harambee ward revealed that some of the people tasked to manage the fund had no clue as to what the fund was all about yet they held senior positions.

The study revealed that there was a lot of secrecy surrounding the fund management and only a selected few knew about it. Most of the beneficiaries cited being involved passively and this served as a public relations ('PR') stunt for the MCA to gain some

favour with the ward residents. The FGD participants lamented about the unfair sharing of the resources in the different sub-locations. The findings revealed that there was a close association of the MCA with the fund yet he is supposed to play an oversight role. Issues of nepotism and rewarding loyalty also arose from the FGD deliberations. This denies the community members the right to participate and assumes that they do not have agency. As Mumby (2005) notes, agency is a central yet challenging concern when it comes to resource management (Mumby, 2005).

The findings also revealed that most of the fund managers lacked capacity due to the low training received. This was cited by one of the key informants. Studies on devolved funds as mentioned in the literature review indicate that lack of knowledge on the roles of those who are tasked to manage the devolved funds has a negative effect towards the performance of the fund and the intended outcomes (KIPPRA, 2008). This in return yields lack of accountability in the processes of managing the fund (IEA, 2006). Furthermore, the community members' reluctance to learn about the WDF operations has aggravated the situation of having information gaps and this then paves way for lack of prioritization of needs and the projects end up being implemented without proper consultation of the community members (beneficiaries).

The channels/mechanisms through which the information is received is a great determinant of how and when the information concerning the fund is relayed to the community members. While this study revealed that the ease of access of information on WDF was from other community members with 49% of the respondent citing this source, the chief's *baraza* and the newspapers/notice boards/posters were more authoritative. The Use of social media was also another dynamic and was popular especially among the youths. The administrative structures cited as one of the sources

were not so popular with the community members since they were associated with lack of openness and a lot of secrecy. The information received from these structures was little and did not go to details of the funds hence this source cannot be used to effectively communicate the status of the fund and the projects being implemented. While this particular study finds moderate participation of the community in projects selection and prioritization, very little or lack of participation in the management, monitoring and evaluation of the WDF projects still portray weaker institutions of financial management at all the lower levels of the fund supporting the findings in the work of Mapesa and Kibua (2006).

4.4 Modes of participation and degree of inclusivity in WDF projects

The study findings indicate that there is generally low opportunity to participate in project identification, decision on project location and management of the project funds. Table 4.7 indicates the frequency of the community members' involvement in identification and prioritization of projects

Table 4.7: Whether involved in identification and prioritization of projects

Involvement in identification and prioritization of projects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	45	22.5
No	155	77.5
TOTAL	200	100

From the above table 4.7, it can be deduced that only 22.5% of the respondents had been involved in the identification and prioritization of WDF projects in Harambee ward. Majority (77.5%) had never been involved. This indicates low levels of community participation in WDF projects.

Table 4.8: Whether involved in deciding the location of projects

Involvement in deciding the location of the project	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	5	2.5
No	195	97.5
TOTAL	200	100

The above information indicates that only 2.5% of the respondents had been involved in deciding where projects will be located. The remaining 97% had never been asked where these projects should be located or implemented. This is evidence on the little engagement of community members in decision making when it comes to WDF projects.

Table 4.9: Whether involved in management of project funds projects

Involvement in managing the projects funds	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	13	6.5
No	187	93.5
TOTAL	200	100

From the above table 4.9, it can be deduced that only 6.5% of the respondents had been involved in the management of the project funds, 93.5% had not been involved in the management of the fund. This is an indication of less opportunity given to community members to be part and parcel of management of the projects.

The findings indicate that there is generally low opportunity for community members to be able to participate effectively in WDF projects. This provides an explanation of issues to do with accountability to the community members by those in charge of managing the WDF projects. Responses from key informant associated the lack of community involvement with lack of accountability and misplaced use of the fund in the ward,

"There was no frequency in monitoring of the projects. The MCA and the ward administrator were micro-managing the projects so there was no trust, no accountability. If there is a misdemeanour with the funds you would not even know. We never knew how and when the funds were disbursed and this goes against the public participation protocol," **(Committee member).**

The focus group discussions with community members yielded insights on issues to do with fund management as community members. Majority of the participants were disgruntled with the limited involvement in the WDF projects. Generally, the participants felt that the allocation of the projects in each area was heavily bias and influenced politically. The participants felt that the areas that the current MCA received more votes were able to have projects implemented and the cronies are the ones to be in charge of oversight even though they did not really have the capacity.

"You have to have voted for the current MCA for him to consider implementing projects in your locality, he just rewards his cronies, those who are considered to have voted for him," **(Excerpt from 18-34 yrs FGD).**

Community members also felt that the limited input in terms of being involved in the projects in the different phases is going against the idea of WDF as a devolved fund which should be inclusive and not just mere public relation stunts. The statement below from an FGD points out to the above sentiments:

"The community participation meetings held are mere cosmetics, I think it's a means of getting money for them by saying they held public participation meeting, yet nothing comes out of these meetings," **(Excerpt from 50 + yrs FGD).**

From the finding, most of the implemented projects were identified by some of the committee members (in this case the ward administrator), the MCA and the management team. The community members were of the opinion that part of the management team overstepped their boundaries and did not give them the opportunity to prioritize or decide on what they wanted. The opinion is reflected in the statement made by a participant in the FGD:

"They did not even ask our opinion on the location of the shops. They were the ones dictating on the location," (Excerpt **from 18-34 yrs FGD**).

In relation to the degree of inclusivity, the findings indicate that 11.4% of the respondents ranked women's participation to be very high, 16.8% to be high, 15.8% ranked women's participation as being low, 5% as being very low while 51% said they did not know. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.10: Ranking of the degree of inclusivity of women in WDF projects

Ranking of the degree of inclusivity of women in WDF projects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very high	23	11.4
High	34	16.8
Low	31	15.8
Very low	10	5
Don't know	102	51
TOTAL	200	100

For persons living with disability, participation was very low with 31.7% of the respondents ranking the participation as being very low while 68.3% did not know if any forum exists for PLWD to be involved in. The information is summarized in the table below:

Table 4.11: Ranking of the degree of inclusivity of PLWD in WDF projects

Ranking of the degree of inclusivity of women in WDF projects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very high	0	0
High	0	0
Low	0	0
Very low	63	31.7
Don't know	137	68.3
TOTAL	200	100

Consensus from FGD participants cited passive participation of women in the WDF projects. Whenever women are involved in the projects, they usually take the back banner and not official or management roles. People living with disability (PLWD) do not have an opportunity to participate in the funded projects as per the sentiments captured in the FGD:

"Only men seem to be actively involved in these projects, women are there but just to be seen. When it comes to people living with disabilities, no visible structure is in place to accommodate them, they are isolated," **(Excerpt from 18-34 yrs FGD).**

In the development discourse, public/community participation in the planning and management of the development projects is very crucial in ensuring a desired and sustainable outcome (Thwala, 2001). The community members must be actively involved and these sentiments are echoed by Anderson & McFarlane (2010) where they indicate that stepping into the community necessitates an attitude of 'do it with the people'. This means that the activities are done with the community members and not for the community members. This means that the citizens have agency, they are knowledgeable enough to know what they see as a priority and not what others think is a priority. Community members in Harambee ward are not fully engaged in the WDF

projects management at the planning or monitoring level which goes against what is stated in the WDF Act.

Harambee ward community members lamented of being superficially involved in the project cycle and reported that the management team only gave them already implemented projects. Excluding community members from these phases of planning through to implementation goes against what is contained in the WDF Act that indicates that projects for funding should be done through a community participatory approach (Nairobi, 2014). The WDF is designed in such a way that it should be able to support community based developments to be enjoyed by all community members in a particular ward. This becomes a mirage when the people mandated to manage the fund do not take into consideration the inputs of the community at every cycle of the project as voiced by the FGD participants.

This situation is then compounded when the MCA tries to manage the fund through the committee instead of playing an oversight role as stipulated in the WDF Act. Despite the findings of the study revealing fair participation of community members in project identification and prioritization, there is very little participation when it comes to identification of project location, participation in management and monitoring and evaluation of the projects. In essence, this points out to weak financial management institutions. This amplifies the sentiments of Mouffe (2000) on the assessment of the institutional mechanism that exhibits 'power over' which inhibit participation. A deep look into these mechanisms, reveal the failure of structure to capture genuine participation which is a problematic concept in public participation discourse (Mouffe, 2000). There is a lack of conceptual framework to fully assess the divide between institutional authority and/control and what genuine participation within these specific

structures look like. This is typical in participation analyses where the managing agency is thought of as the one to control all the rules and resources whereas the participating entities get to control little or nothing at all (Hater, 2004).

The modes of participation in WDF projects in Harambee ward were found to be very passive. On several occasions, the community members were involved in project identification. However, the community members were excluded from deciding on project location, project management and monitoring and evaluating these projects. Therefore, their minimal input cannot be meaningful in terms of relevance and sustainability of the funded projects. Involving people in decision making is critical, this partly reflects on the notion that people who live in a certain environment over time are often the ones who are able to make decisions about its sustainable use (Wignaraja, 1991). As pointed out by Levy& Lemeshow (2011), participation is very much dependent on how well the community members are integrated as groups or even as individuals. The project management team should therefore, ensure that they put down a clear strategy to engage the community members (Levy & Lemeshow, 2011).

Leaving the decision making processes solely on the management team means that the community members are stripped of their sense of agency to be able to select and prioritize their needs. Through this, it can clearly be seen that the organisational dimensions in decision making processes especially the internal bureaucracy when it comes to management of the fund lacks the community participation framework. Low participation in this case is as a result of structures inhibiting the process. Critical approaches to public/community participation therefore, need to take into consideration the issue of agency, thus moving beyond the passive or duped participation (Mumby, 2005).

The manner in which the community engagement framework is structured revealed that women do take part in the community participation processes in regards to WDF. However the level of participation revealed that they act as mere recipients or consumers and not decision makers. Women and persons living with disabilities have faced systematic exclusion courtesy of their gender and physical/mental impairment respectively. More often than not, women and other vulnerable groups (in this case PLWD) are left without the relevant information of planned activities and how important their participation is (Yibabe, 2012). The findings still reveal that there is a need to promote policies that encourage women's participation especially in the management of devolved fund. Discrimination against the disabled persons is still rampant as the discussants highlighted during the FGDs. They usually lack the adequate care and protection that is commensurate to their vulnerabilities.

The available approaches that build the capacity of women and the excluded groups need to be built in the mobilisation process. The public audits which have become a common acceptable tool also need to be implemented more effectively with meaningful participation of women and PLWD in the community. These groups need to be institutionalised within the monitoring and evaluation systems in the WDF projects. The inclusion of the gender aspect and other vulnerable groups in devolved funded projects requires a very thorough gender analysis in relation to the cross-cutting issues in the projects.

4.5 Challenges Faced by Community Members in the Process of Participation in WDF Projects

The study sought to find out the challenges faced by community members as they participate in the WDF projects. The challenges were assessed in terms of the redress

mechanisms in place to address issues on WDF. Setting up a complaint mechanism is very crucial as it guarantees the community members to have a buy-in from the start of the project.

The findings indicate that only 22.8% of the respondents knew of the existence of the redress mechanisms in place, the remaining 77.2% did not know of any redress mechanism in place in relation to WDF. This is noted in the table below.

Table 4.12: Knowledge on the existence of redress mechanisms

Whether you know of any redress mechanism	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	46	22.8
No	154	77.2
TOTAL	200	100

From the findings, several redress mechanisms were mentioned by the respondents, 33.3% knew of the existence of community meetings/barazas, 30% of the respondents mentioned administrative office, 19% talked of the suggestion boxes, 15.9% of the respondents mentioned the social hall and only 1.6% talked of the notice board. This is represented in the figure below.
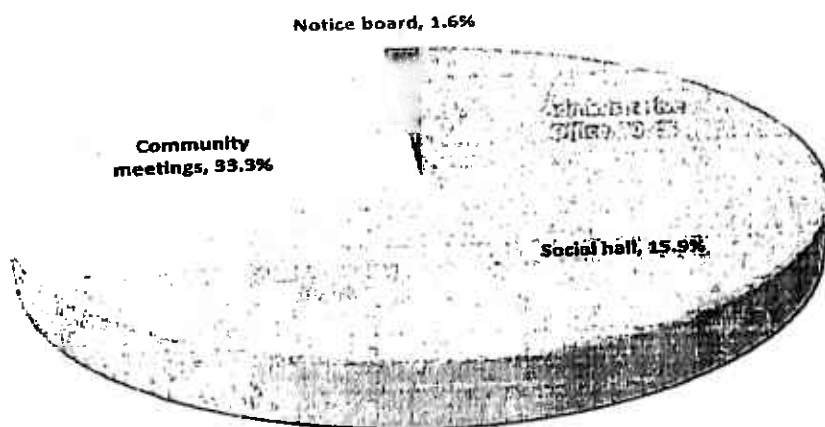

Figure 4.4: Redress channels mentioned

Aside from lack of awareness of the existing redress mechanisms, responses from key informants highlighted the fact that there were no planning structures and this really affects the process of monitoring the projects in place. The key informants also noted the management team lacked capacity to be able to track and monitor the funds.

"There are no clear structures that are in place to safeguard assets. There is nothing like fiscal accountability. The county government cannot bring their budget controller to ask the relevant questions as well as get feedback from the committee members. In the act, this is well articulated but in reality, there is a mismatch. The county needs to train, build capacity of committee members both in tracking the finances, accountability, identifying fraud. They need to train them to be in unison with the community and to make them understand that this is not a political unit, it is a development unit," **(Committee member).**

I would have loved for there to be a mechanism, everyone should get information, the lack of structures makes it impossible for execution of the planned activities, " **(Ward administrator).**

Discussions from the FGDs revealed that lack of knowledge and awareness contributes to the community members not being involved in all the phases of the project cycle. Some of the participants felt that certain locations in the ward had been neglected when it came to project implementation mainly because of political issues, this can be attributed to voting patterns of the residence and projects being awarded to those who were considered as being loyal in terms of voting. The participants felt that sensitization of the existence of the fund would greatly contribute to improved participation.

"There is no access to adequate information when it comes to WDF. If we know what it is all about we shall participate actively as members of this community," **(Excerpt from 35-50 yrs FGD).**

The findings reveal that community members in Harambee ward face some challenges that prevent them from actively participating in the funded projects. These challenges are mainly structural, at the management level in which limited access to the relevant details of the funds and the project cost impact on issues of transparency and accountability in the WDF funded projects. Lack of capacity to manage the project fund was one of the major challenges that cropped up. Capacity in this context would mean the skills and competency to effectively manage the fund. The findings revealed that the number of people who have acquired technical skills on aspects such as tracking, monitoring and auditing are just the top officials who went for training as indicated by one of the key informant. The rest of the team in the committee do not have these skills and as such cannot be in a position to question the excesses in an event there is fraud/misappropriation of funds.

Capacity building for the community members was seen as an aspect that was lacking. The discussants mentioned that they should be at least trained on how to write proposals which would then highlight their needs for a particular project to be implemented as well on how to conduct social audits. Targeting the community members as well as those managing the fund and building their capacity is very instrumental in developing sustainability of the WDF projects.

There exist no clear structures of planning which would enable the process of monitoring and evaluation of the projects. A clearly spelt out plan is very crucial for any development intervention as it offers a framework within which people should

operate in times of the set goals, time and resources available. Lack of these structures usually lead to stalled projects or misappropriation of funds as mentioned by participants of Harambee ward. The modern shops that were implemented to serve the interests of the residents ended up being rented out to individuals who are not necessarily residents of the ward. This kind of under-utilisation of resources by community came about because they did not have a clear structure upon which such a project should be implemented. The residents were not consulted and the groups that benefitted were only given the shops after they were completed.

The lack of information on the operations and policies of WDF is yet another challenge that has hindered the community members in terms of seeking accountability on how the money is utilised. Occasionally, the community members face a very bureaucratic process in an attempt to gain information. Even when they do get any information, it is still inadequate and does not get into the depths of the amount disbursed, estimated costs of the projects and the people tasked with the construction and implementation of the said projects. The level of secrecy surrounding the fund is too high with the persons in charge having vested interest in the fund and ultimately misappropriating the fund. This is seen as a major challenge in the effective utilisation of the funds.

5.0 CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents a summary of the findings based on the specific objectives, the drawn conclusions and recommendations of the study.

5.1 Summary

This study assessed community participation in development projects that were funded by WDF in Harambee ward, Makadara Sub-County. More precisely, the study undertook to establish knowledge and awareness of WDF operations and policies, the modes of participation and the degree of inclusivity of community members in the projects and the challenges faced by community members in the process of participating

Examination of general awareness of WDF revealed that there is a high number of community members who are aware of the existence of the fund. However, the knowledge of the specific details about the fund is really low among the community members. Inadequacy of information undermines the capacity to audit monetary expenditure including project quality. The people managing the fund seemed to have both awareness and knowledge of the fund and how it operates. This therefore, reveals a disconnect in terms of the processes of monitoring and evaluation of the projects by the community members.

The findings reveal weak community participation in the different phases of the project cycle. Community participation is low from project identification and prioritization phases through to the implementation phase and with the community raising issues over the high-handedness nature of the committee in the WDF projects given their non-inclusive nature in dealing with the public funds. It was also established that there is an elite capture of the devolved funds at the ward level through the institutions managing

the funds. This has seen the funds being manipulated and the community members being blocked in the participation process in the different project phases. The findings of this study also reveal that, women and persons living with disabilities are rarely included in the decision making processes. As much as there was an indication of women being beneficiaries of the projects, this was done in a very passive manner. The PLWDs are rarely considered for the projects funded by WDF as evidenced from the discussions held with participants.

It was established that the challenges that hinder community members from fully participating in WDF projects included, lack of capacity building and lack of strategic planning which would enable the continuation of the projects even with a new regime in place. The issue of political interference arose as another challenge which resulted in the misuse and misappropriation of the funds and the priorities of the community members were not taken into consideration. This level of political patronage is possible simply because the people who are chosen to be part of the committee are not chosen in an open manner. This then results to discriminatory and underhand means of distributing the projects and fund across the different locations since the issue of favouritism kicks in. The MCA should play oversight role and not be directly involved in the process of project implementation as is the case at the moment.

5.2 Conclusions

Community participation is important because involving the community in decision making greatly influences ownership of the projects. A Structuration model of community participation is important as it looks at the issues of agency and ontological competency. The issue of agency in participatory approaches is key. Agency in this sense is composite of knowledge, mobilisation skills among other skills in the context

of social auditing. The participant's willingness to involve themselves is highly depended on the constraining/enabling factors that are usually from institutional and organisational processes. Hence this determines 'genuine' participation. Genuine involvement of the people actually yields different outcomes and ensures sustainability. The structures within the institutions managing the funds come up with decisions and mechanisms that are contrary to the given procedures hence hindering the community members from fully participating.

In order to guarantee meaningful participation of WDF projects, there needs to have a lot of sensitization on the specific provisions of the WDF Act on participation, redress mechanisms and accountability measures. Additionally, the modes of participation can be enhanced if the community members are knowledgeable enough about the fund. The typology that works best for the community in terms of capturing their voices is interactive participation in which the beneficiaries play a very direct and active role in the project planning. This means that they get to take part in all the phases of the project cycle from identification through to implementation. There is a great need to consider the existing strengths at both the institutional and community levels which can be used as a boost for the implementation processes. The study concludes that given the right approach and considering the powerful need of people to determine their own destiny, WDF can be a very important tool in ensuring grassroots development. We must as a country strive to safeguard this very innovative approach to people involvement.

5.3 Recommendations

Considering the state of the WDF projects in Harambee ward, the study makes the following recommendations:

- Knowing the important role played by the knowledge of WDF policy regulation in enabling active participation of the community members in WDF projects, more sensitization should be done by the planning committees and the ministry of devolution so that the community members can be conversant with the specific provisions of the WDF Act on participation, redress and accountability.

- Sources of information which are easily available and accessible should be put in place. Notice boards should be positioned in such a manner that the public can easily access it. The content in the notice boards should be inclusive of the details of the disbursed funds and the people who manage it. It should contain simplified and popular versions easily consumable by a variety of people at the community level. Such efforts need to be complemented by public barazas to allow public feedback and interactions with WDF officials.

- Capacity building of both the community members and the management team should be done through training on aspects of social auditing, tracking of the funds and monitoring and evaluation. This could be facilitated by the county government.

- A gender and disability sensitive management structure should be put in place so as to ensure that there is full representation of the vulnerable groups (Women and PLWD) as well as encouraging the participation of the youth.

5.4 Recommendation on future research

Future studies should consider exploring the role of communality participation in the success of WDF projects across the different wards considering the fact that this study only captured the aspect of community participation without looking at its influence on the success or failure on the projects.

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APPENDICES

Appendix1: Consent Form

General Community participation in Ward Development Fund (WDF) Projects in Harambee Ward, Makadara Sub-County.

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon. I appreciate you taking the time to talk to me. My name is _____. I am a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing a masters degree in Development Anthropology.

You have been selected to be part of this research study that is being conducted to understand how the community in Harambee ward participate in the projects funded by the Ward Development Fund. Prior to taking part in this research, I would like you to understand what the research is all about. Hence, I will read to you the information and if anything is not clear you may seek clarity from me. After you have understood what the study entails, your consent will be asked and if you wish to continue, you shall be asked to sign this consent form.

Investigator

The study investigator is Brenda Nanjala Mukungu of the University of Nairobi.

Study Location

The study is to be carried out in Makadara Sub-County, Harambee ward, Nairobi City County.

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this study is to explore the dynamics of community participation by establishing the level of knowledge and awareness, the mode of participation and

degree of inclusivity in the community engagement framework and finally the challenges faced by community me9mbers in the process of trying to participate in the projects funded by WDF. The reasons as to why you have been selected to participate in this study is because you have participated in the WDF projects in one way or the other and therefore might have important information about the process of participation by community members and the constraints to meaningful participation. **Description of the Research**

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in an interview and share your views and experience on the research topic.

Risks

In the process of conducting the interview, there might be a breach of confidentiality but we will take the necessary precautions to enable us minimise this. You may also feel uncomfortable sharing your views on the funded projects. In such a case, you are free to decline to answer the question.

Benefits

The study has no direct benefits. However, by participating in this study, your contributions are important as they could potentially inform policies on the aspect of community participation in the country.

Confidentiality

The interview to be conducted with you will be kept in strict confidence. Your name will not be recorded and the responses given will be combined with the other responses from community members. The information gathered will be stored safely and only the study team can access.

Voluntariness

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide to take part and at any point you wish to withdraw, you are free to do so. Refusing to participate will not attract any penalties.

Additional Information

There is no compensation for taking part in this study.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The findings of the study will be disseminated back to the community through the ward administrative channels and shared with the scientific community through publication. Copies of the final thesis will be made available at the University of Nairobi Library for academic purposes.

Who has reviewed the study for ethical issues? National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and the University of Nairobi Senate board.

Contacts:

In the event that you have any concerns about any aspect of the study, you are free to contact the researcher or the supervisor who will do their best to try and answer. You may contact them through;

Brenda Nanjala Mukungu, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254717014128; E-mail: mukungubrenda88@gmail.com or

Charles Owuor Olungah, PhD, PGD, MPhil, BA, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197-00100, Nairobi, Kenya;

Tel: +254722217132;

Email: owuorolungah@uonbi.ac.ke

What if there is a problem?

If at any point you have an issue with the way you have been handled during the study or any possible harm, your concerns will be addressed. Please contact:

Graduate School,

The University of Nairobi,

P.O. Box P.O. Box 30197-00100,

Nairobi.

Tel: 3742078/3742080.

Or

National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation

off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,

P. O. Box 30623, 00100,

Nairobi, KENYA .

Land line: 020 4007000, 020 2241349, 020 3310571, 020 8001077

Wireless: 020 267 3550

Mobile: 0713 788 787 / 0735 404 245

WhatsApp: 0792 746282

Any questions?   Yes ____   No ____

If yes, kindly note the questions below: --

Are you willing to participate in this study?

Yes ____   No ____

_____   _____

Signature of respondent   Date

_____   _____

Signature of interviewer   Date

Appendix II: Questionnaire for community members

Introduction to survey questions

I am Brenda Nanjala, an MA Student in Development Anthropology at UoN. I am carrying out a research on community participation in Ward Development Fund (WDF) projects in Harambee ward, Makadara Sub-county. I would therefore want to find out the level of knowledge and awareness of policies and operations, modes of participations in the projects, the level of inclusivity in the ward community's engagement framework in light of WDF and the constraints to active participation in the WDF projects. All the information given in this study will be kept in the strict confidence. Please answer honestly where choices are given and tick the options which match your answers. Otherwise, write out the information asked for in the blank space after the question.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SECTION ONE: Demographics of the Respondents

S1. Name of respondent (Optional) _____

S2. Age

[1] 18-33   [2] 34- 50   [3] 51 and above   [4] Refused

S3. Gender

[1] Male   [2] Female

S4. Place of residence

Kindly indicate the sub-location of your residence in the ward

[1] Harambee   [2] Lumumba-Jericho

S5. How long have you been a residence of Harambee Ward?

[1] Less than 5 years   [2] 5-10 years   [3] above 10 years.

S6. Marital Status

[1] Single   [2] Married   [3] Divorced [4] Widowed   [5] Separated

[6] Others

S7. Occupation

[1] Government employee   [2] Private sector employee   [3] Entrepreneur [4]

Unemployed

[5] Others

S8. Income (monthly)

[1] Below 1000   [2] 1001-5000 [3] 5001-10000 [4] 10001-15000   [5] 15001

& above [6] Refused

S9. Highest Level of education attained

No education at all [1]

Primary school incomplete [2]

Primary school completed [3]

Secondary school incomplete [4]

Secondary school completed [5]

Tertiary education (e.g Technical, youth polytechnic, college, university) incomplete

[6] Tertiary education (e.g Technical, youth polytechnic, college, university)

completed [7]

SECTION TWO: Awareness and Knowledge of WDF

1.1 Do you know if WDF fund exists in this ward?

Yes [1]   No [2]

1.2. How did you get to know about WDF? (Tick all that apply)

[1] Through other community members

[2] Chief's baraza

[3] Notices/poster/newspaper

[4] Social media (facebook, twitter, YouTube, e.t.c)

[5] Known of the existence of WDF Act.

[6] Others please specify...

1.3. Are you aware of any WDF projects in this ward?

[1] Yes   [2] No- GO TO 1.8

Please specify these projects..

1.4. What is the source of finance for these projects?

[1] WDF [2] CBOs   [3] Harambee [4] others (specify)....................

1.5. Are you aware of the cost of the projects?

[1] Yes   [2] No

If yes indicate amount

1.6. Do you know how much has been disbursed to this ward?

[1] Yes   [2] No

If yes indicate

1.7. What is the status of some of the projects?

[1] Incomplete   [2] stalled   [3] complete [4] Don't know

1.8. In your view, what is the general awareness of WDF by the community

members in this ward?

[1] Very high

[2] High

[3] Low

[4] Very Low

[5] I don't know

1.9. Kindly respond to the questions below about the opportunity to participate in WDF decision making.

Decision making	a)Are community members given opportunities or right to participate in		b)Are you aware of how you can be involved?		c)Have you tried to get involved?	
a) Identification and prioritizing	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
b)Deciding on the location of projects	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
c)Management of project funds						

SECTION THREE: Implementation of WDF

2.1 Are you aware of available avenues in the community for identifying and prioritizing development projects?

    [1] Yes- briefly explain...

    [2] No- Go to 2.5

2.2 Kindly indicate how these projects funded by WDF were identified. (Tick all that apply)

    [1] WDF committee identified/proposed

    [2] MCA suggested project

    [3] Community identified

    [4] Don't know

2.3 Have you participated in projects funded by the Ward Development

Fund over the two years span from 2014/2015 to 2016/2017?

[1] Yes   [2] No

2.4 If yes, what stage of the project lifecycle did you majorly participate in? (Tick

all that   apply).

[1] Project initiation   [2] Project planning   [3] Project execution

[4] Project controlling   [5]   Project Closure

2.5 Do you know how money for WDF project implementation is provided to the

community?

[1] Yes- please give estimates for the last financial year...............

[2] No-Go to **2.7**

2.6 Through what channel is the money provided to the community?

[1] Sub-county office   [2] WDF committee

[3] MCA   [4] Don't know

2.7 Are the community members involved in monitoring of the WDF projects?

[1] Yes   [2] No- Go to **2.9**   [3] Don't know

2.8 If yes, how does the community keep track of WDF project implementation?

[1] Project management committee in place   [2] Projects accounts kept

[3] Monitoring committee   [4] Feedback during the

                                              meetings

2.9 Are you aware of incidences of complaints regarding WDF in the community?

[1] Yes- please state those incidences. (at most 3)....................

[2] No

2.10 Are you aware of channels or places where the WDF complaints are heard?

[1] Yes briefly list these places... (at most 3).......................

[2] No

SECTION FOUR: Ward Citizen's Engagement Framework.

3.1 Do citizen's forums exist in this ward?

[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know

If yes, what is their mandate? Briefly explain...........

ASK IF 3.1=1

3.2. How representative are these forums for youth?

[1] Very high

[2] High

[3] Low

[4] Very Low

[5] I don't know

ASK IF 3.1=1

3.3. How representative are these forums for women?

[1] Very high

[2] High

[3] Low

[4] Very Low

[5] I don't know

ASK IF 3.1=1

3.4. How representative are these forums for PLWD?

[1] Very high

[2] High

[3] Low

[4] Very Low

[5] I don't know

Appendix III: Focus Group Discussion Guide

I am Brenda Nanjala, an MA Student in Development Anthropology at UoN. I am carrying out a research on community participation in Ward Development Fund (WDF) projects in Harambee ward, Makadara Sub-county I would therefore want to find out the level of knowledge and awareness of policies and operations, modes of participations in the projects, level of inclusivity in the ward community's engagement framework in light of WDF and the constraints to active participation in the WDF projects. All the information given in this study will be confidential. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Section 1: Awareness and knowledge of WDF:

The level of knowledge about the existence of WDF in the community

Awareness of projects funded/implemented and knowledge of level of funding

Impressions on community ownership of projects and factors responsible

Existence of opportunities for people to participate in WDF and

Awareness and assessment of redress mechanisms

Section 2: WDF implementation

Participation of community based groups in WDF decision making process (allocation, prioritization, monitoring of WDF projects)

Community planning structures in existence and their participation in identifying priority projects

The level of community participation in monitoring, implementation and managing WDF projects (who is involved, when, how)

Capacity building mechanisms in place to help community participation in WDF

Mechanisms for targeting different groups, meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

Mechanisms of maximizing equivalent spread of WDF projects in the community

Section 3: Composition of ward community's forum

Fair representation of the stakeholders across the youth, women, marginalised groups, PLWD

Vetting mechanisms for the citizen's/community forum committee members.

Section 4: Constraints to participation

Identified barriers to constructive participation of community in WDF projects

What problems are encountered in project identification, prioritization and implementation including monitoring and evaluation?

What needs to be changed/done to improve effectiveness of WDF among the community?

Appendix IV: Key Informant Interview Guide

I am Brenda Nanjala, an MA Student in Development Anthropology at UoN. I am carrying out a research on community participation in Ward Development Fund (WDF) projects in Harambee ward, Makadara Sub-county I would therefore want to find out the level of knowledge and awareness of policies and operations, modes of participations in the project, inclusivity in the ward community's engagement framework in light of WDF and the constraints to active participation in the CDF projects. All the information given in this study will be confidential. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Administrators (policy matters)

Who are the main actors in WDF project planning and implementation?

What is the role played by different stakeholders in WDF project phases?

Does the selection of the WDF committee always ensure observance of the 2/3 gender rule to ensure all inclusive participation?

What is the role of community in WDF projects?

What are the sources of information for people on WDF?

What are the modes of mobilizing people to participate in WDF?

Which constraints are faced by the community in participating in WDF projects?

How frequent do you monitor the projects?

Fund management

How is the general accounting and financial reporting done?

How and when are the fund disbursements done? (Probe)

Are there any mechanisms in place to ensure the funds reached the intended beneficiaries?

Are there structures in place that safeguard assets and ensure fiscal accountability?

Does your department have a standard practice in place to prevent fraudulent activities that is understood by the people managing the fund? (Probe for internal control)

MCA (political factors)

Does the political leadership stick to oversight role as indicated in the constitution?

To what extent does the political class interfere with the monitoring and evaluation of funded projects?

Do structures exist to build capacity of women to participate in WDF projects?

Do you consider women participation in projects critical for successful project implementation.(Probe)

What major challenge has been experienced in terms of community participation in WDF funded project?

Appendix V: Sub-County Administration Authorization Letter

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

Telephone: 020 344194
web: www.nairobi.go.ke

City Hall,
P. O. Box 30075-00100,
Nairobi,
KENYA.

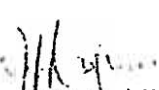### DEVOLUTION & SUB COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

MEMO

FROM : CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

TO : SUB COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - MAKADARA

REF : DSCA/CAO/BNM/16/04.2019

DATE : 16th APRIL 2019

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION - BRENDA NANJALA MUKUNGU

The above subject matter refers.

Attached herein please find authorization research letter Ref: NCC/HRD/HRM/11/199/WC.50 dated 12th April 2019 from the Director Human Resource Development on the above named person. Accord her the necessary assistance.

HUMPHREY M. WAMBUGU
CAO DEVOLUTION & SUB COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Copy to: CCO D & SCA
Director D & SCA
P.H.R.O Makadara

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Appendix VI: Nacosti Research Authorization Letter

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone.-254-20-2213471,
2241349,3310571,2219420
Fax +254 20 318245,318249
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke
Website : www.nacosti.go.ke
When replying please quote

NACOSTI, Upper Kabete
Off Waiyaki Way
P.O Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA

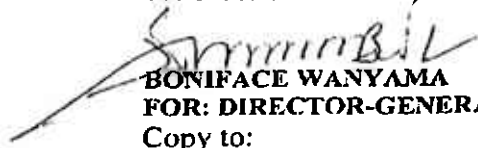Ref No NACOSTI/P/18/66413/26188   Date 6th November, 2018

Brenda Nanjala Mukungu
University of Nairobi
Po Box 30197-00100
NAIROBI.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on *"Community participation in Ward Development Fund (wdf) Projects in Harambee Ward, Makadara Sub-County"* I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Nairobi county** for the period ending 6th **November, 2019.**

You are advised to report to the **County Commissioner and the County Director of Education, Nairobi County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit a copy of the final research report to the Commission within one year of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.

BONIFACE WANYAMA
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO
Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Nairobi County

The County Director of Education
Nairobi County