FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN ELECTORAL POLITICS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY, KENYA

## BY

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## DECLARATION

This research project proposal is my original work and has not been presented for an award in any other university.
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## DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my wife Ann Wanjiru for the support and encouragement she has given me during the entire study period.

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## ABREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IDEA - International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

IEBC - Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

SPSS - Statistical Package for Social Scientists


#### Abstract

This study analyzed factors influencing community support to women in electoral processes in Laikipia County, Kenya. Specifically, the study examined the electoral positions being contested for by women, socio-cultural factors influencing community support for women, and constraints faced by women in electoral politics. Feminism theory was used to explicate women's participation in electoral process, and as such formed the study's theoretical frameworks. This was a descriptive study done in Laikipia County. The used a sample size of 384 respondents, which was selected through stratified random sampling. Data was collected largely by use of questionnaires. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and then reported in frequencies and presented in tables. This study recommends for development of comprehensive urban policy that recognizes the informal sector as a viable source of livelihood. The study found that community support for women in electoral politics was largely influenced by the electoral position being contested, with such support leaning toward women contesting for the position of women representative. Community revealed that they could not support women contesting for the position of governor and president, a decision that was born out of Community's inadequate knowledge of the electoral rights of women. Less than $25 \%$ of potential women leaders offered themselves for electoral politics, a situation that negatively affected their overall success in the electoral contests. Women's marital status, level of education and party affiliation were the major socio-cultural issues that influenced community's support for women in electoral politics, with most support going to married women and women with university level of education. High costs of electoral campaigns, electoral violence and lack of democracy and transparency in political parties were some of the outstanding constraints faced by women in electoral politics in Laikipia County. A significant proportion of community conceded that they had very little knowledge of the constitutional rights of women to electoral politics. This study recommends for urgent education of the community about the constitution generally and the provisions on women specifically so that future electoral decisions are from an informed position. In terms of policy, this study recommends for the development of comprehensive political party regulations and financing of electoral campaigns.


## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Women are a major force behind people participation in life of society today. Not only do they comprise of the majority in terms of population, but they also play a crucial role in society as procreators of posterity as well as producers of goods and services (Kasomo,2012). There is increasing awareness that women participation is a key element in a program achievement. Meaningful participation of women is a matter of equity as half of the population; women deserve to participate in all process that affect their lives and well being. Moreover, studies show that the exclusion of women is in fact detrimental to development program. The involvement of women lends itself to the establishment of representative and responsive programs at the local level and to increased democratization of community structures and programming (CHF International,2006).

Over the last two decades, the issues concerning women have taken new dimensions and received varied treatment by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The principle of equality of men and women was recognized in the United Nations Charter (19450, and subsequently in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). In spite of the international declarations affirming the rights and equality between men and women of which Kenya is a signatory. Available Literature shows that women still constitute a disproportionately small percentage of those participating in decision-making and leadership processes. Many global conferences, including the Cairo Conference on Women (1995), and the World Summit for Social Development (1995)have recognized that, despite the progress made globally in improving status of women, gender disparities still exist, especially in regard to participation in leadership. The low participation of women in this position affects their progress in improving the legal and regulatory framework for promoting gender equality since very few women are influencing the legislative process. The rationale for promoting women participation in leadership is based on equity, quality and development.
Recent efforts have emphasized the importance of gender-sensitive programming, but women still face the challenge of contributing meaningfully to the development process and are still often marginalized by community development processes that tend to be male-dominated. It is accepted in the development community that unless specific steps are taken to ensure the equal participation of
men and women in community development activities, women are often excluded. For this reason, organizations are increasingly requiring the participation of women in community governance organizations such as community councils or committees to facilitate women participation (CHF International, 2006).

Several obstacles that prevent women from advancing to leadership positions have been identified. Bello (1992) regards socio-cultural beliefs as the major barriers in this regard, while AdhiamboOduol (2003) identifies socio-cultural beliefs, attitudes, biases and stereotypes as major barriers. These beliefs emphasize the superiority of men and the inferiority of women. They form an integral part of the socialization process and the gender education and training most men and women are exposed to from childhood. Based on the concept of role expectancy, an individual develops through the years his or her own set of internalized values, beliefs, attitudes, ideals and aspirations. Another formidable barrier is the institutional framework guiding the gender division of labour, recruitment and vertical mobility. Current estimates show that women are particularly disadvantaged with their labour often under-valued and under-utilized. Women are more likely to be employed than men, yet their average income is lower. Yet another obstacle confronting women is lack of enough participation and empowerment in decisions that affect their lives in political and social processes. Olojede (1990) notes that since men dominate public decision-making processes, it is the male values that are reflected in the decision-making bodies.

Kenya's development record and its demographic composition suggest a need for active involvement of women in key decision-making bodies. There is a clear indication that even though women form the majority voters in Kenya, they are still under-represented in leadership positions. In many Kenyan communities, traditional perceptions of women as inferior to men continue to prevail as many people invoke the preservation of African culture to justify the subordination of women. As a result, men usually dominate women in the political, religious, economic, academic and domestic spheres. Women academic achievements and roles in society are hardly acknowledged or recognized. This situation has necessitated the call for the empowerment of women by according them their due status, rights and responsibilities and enabling them to participate actively in decision making activities.

Kenya is undergoing a definitive period in governance and constitutional reforms. The democratic space has expanded and individual freedoms and rights enjoy wider recognition in the New Constitution more than ever before. Levels of governance have been devolved and strengthened through affirmative action provisions that are now entrenched in the Constitution. This is in line with Vision 2030 where the political pillar entrenches transformation of Kenya political governance. Vision 2030 has the objective to ensure that everyone participates in the country's political system. Through the enactment of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), it provided an opportunity to include women in the governance. The nation finds itself at a point in time when the most efficient legal and political way forward at this time 2013 is in fact the one provided for by the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill (2012) on Implementing Affirmative Action principles towards gender equity. This is the only window of opportunity that the nation has that can be used creatively and responsibly by the National Assembly in order to legislate a mechanism that will be used to implement the 'Not more than Two Thirds of one Gender' principle.

This is therefore the opportune moment for women and other marginalized groups in the country to strategically delineate their specific concerns including participation in electoral politics and leadership. The unfolding national transition should integrate a gender perspective that empowers women and men, allowing them to utilize opportunities that the reform process has generated and gain the capacity to alleviate historical injustices. However, strategies and interventions that are not informed by objective information that represents an understanding of critical issues in the community and levels of knowledge and attitudes could easily deviate, waste or suppress the potential of women and men for self-affirmation during the country's watershed moment. A gender perspective must also be brought to bear on the country's policies, and such a perspective must go beyond simply including men and women, to institutionalize measures that address gender equity (Odhiambo, 2007). This study will therefore help in identifying issues and feasible strategies that can inform civic education programmes and catapult women and men into leadership on the basis of equality and social justice.

Laikipia County is located in the central part of the former Rift Valley Province, of Kenya and borders the Counties of Meru to the East, Nyeri to the South East, Nyandarua to the West, Nakuru and Baringo to the North West, and Samburu to the North. The County is cosmopolitan and has an estimated population of 399,227 of whom 200,602 (50.25\%) are women as per the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). According to the Independent and Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) database (2013) (www.iebc.or.ke), the county has a total of 170,267 registered voters 80,127 being women. Since the inception of multiparty democracy in 1992, the County has never had any elected political woman leader at all the levels of political representation in spite of their numerical strength in the County. In the just concluded 2013 general elections, only one out of the 15 County Assembly Wards has an elected woman representative. However, factors that militate against women participation in the political processes in Laikipia County have not been investigated and documented, especially in light of the New Constitution of Kenya 2010. It is against this background that this study is designed to investigate factors influencing community support for women in electoral politics, focusing on the 2013 electoral processes.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Over the past three decades, the international community has made numerous commitments to promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination against women, including through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and the Millennium Summit (2000). In the 2005 World Summit, Member States reaffirmed the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly as an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The Beijing Platform for Action considered the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels as one of the critical areas of concern for the empowerment of women. It stated "Women's equal participation in decision- making is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at
all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved" (UN, 1995). The 2006 Commission on the Status of Women underscored the importance of incorporating women's leadership in a wide range of decision-making positions and agreed on equal participation of women and men in decision- making processes at all levels.

Although women representation in politics and decision making has received much attention over the last decades, the Inter Parliamentary Union, (2012) recons that in spite of the world efforts, political life and parliaments are still dominated by men. The under representation of women at the political level is the outcome of masculine hold over the economic and other power resources (Aslam, 2002). Further, the socialization process and the institutional organization also reinforce male dominance and patriarchy among female (Basu, 2005). The cultural values and misinterpretation of traditional and folk wisdom that women being a delicate sex are not in the position to bear the burden of political activities over their shoulders and could not perform political duties. Particularly in the third world countries women participation in the political affairs is mostly linked with socio-cultural, economic and religious environment which is male oriented and that ultimately restrained women participation (Khan, 2011). Thus, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women depend partly on the willingness of women and men to discard biased cultural practices and attitudes that discriminate against women.

In Kenya, women constitute slightly over half of the total population and form a critical portion of enhancing democratization of political system in the country. Yet despite the myriad international and national policies and legal postulations, gender inequality in Kenya is a glaring issue especially considering that $51 \%$ of the national population is female. Due to various constraints the number of women parliamentarians has remained very low over the years. Today the level of women representation stands at 87 of the 416 seats in the newly established National Assembly and Senate (about $21 \%$ ). Previously, women parliamentarians formed a paltry $9.5 \%$ which was considerably very low, particularly by comparison with some of Kenya's neighbours, such as Tanzania (30.4\%), Uganda (29.8\%), Burundi (30.5\%) and Rwanda (48.8\%) (African Development Bank, 2007). In the March, 2013 general election in Laikipia County there were 2 women national assembly aspirants, 14 women county representative aspirants and 4 women aspirants for women representative. There
was no woman aspirant for both gubernatorial and senatorial posts. Only one woman emerged victorious as a county representative.

The possible explanation for low women representation in electoral politics could be that gender issues in electoral politics have not received due attention and that community support for women participation in political processes is below expectation. The outcome of the 2013 general election indicates that in spite of the gains made in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on women participation in political leadership, women are still relegated to the peripheries of political leadership in the country. The $21 \%$ women representation in the Kenyan Parliament still fell below the one-third gender rule as provided in the Constitution of Kenya. In a recent case at Kenya's Supreme Court, the court ruled that the one-third gender rule is to be realized progressively by the year 2015. However, the community, which ideally has the responsibility of elevating women to political power through democratic process, seems to be not alive to the changing realities of the position of women in as far as decision-making is concerned. The consequence of this is that in their public and private lives, women have to struggle to articulate their desires and to find their own voices. While a few researchers have in recent past began to document on women participation in political leadership in Kenya, such documentation has not focused on factors that influence community support for women in electoral politics. The study will therefore analyze factors influencing community support for women in electoral politics, focusing on the 2013 electoral processes in Laikipia County, Kenya.

### 1.3 Broad Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study was to analyze factors influencing community support for women in electoral politics in Laikipia County, Kenya.

### 1.4 Specific Objectives of the Study

The study will be guided by the following objectives:
a) To identify the electoral positions women candidate seek in 2013 electoral processes in Laikipia County, Kenya
b) To identify socio-cultural influencing the community support for women in electoral politics of 2013 in Laikipia County, Kenya.
c) To establish constraints faced by women candidates in electoral politics of 2013 in Laikipia County, Kenya.

### 1.5 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following research questions:
a) What are some of the electoral positions women candidate sought in 2013 electoral processes in Laikipia County, Kenya?
b) Which socio-cultural influence community support for women in electoral politics of 2013 in Laikipia County, Kenya?
c) What are some of constraints faced by women candidates in electoral politics of 2013 in Laikipia County, Kenya?

### 1.6 Significance of the Study

There is no sufficient data on the factors affecting women involvement in political dispensation in Laikipia County. The significance of this study derives not only from its ability to determine the level of participation of women in electoral politics but also its examination of the factors that affect women effective participation. The fact that the study will be a post-election analysis of women participation in the last general elections, which ushered in a new political dispensation in Kenya, further substantiates its significance. It is hoped that the data gathered from this study would lead to enhance and efficient implementation of affirmative action policies that will boost gender mainstreaming and equal participation in political elective processes. The data will also be resourceful to scholars and policy makers as well as contribute to the inadequate literature on gender participation in electoral politics in Africa in general and Kenya in particular.

The study has set the stage to mobilize women and men from different sectors; government and private sectors in order to encourage a national dialogue on enhancing women leadership skills and improve strategies for women advancement to political and higher leadership positions, taking into
account the unique context of our country. The findings of this study will provide timely information for decision makers and legislators to inform their policies and legislation to enhance women's advancement in leadership positions.

### 1.7 Limitations of the Study

The geographical scope of the study poses the greatest challenge to this survey, given that the study intends to collect views across the entire County. This entailed travelling long distances to reach out to the respondents who are spread throughout Laikipia County. To overcome this limitation, recruitment of research assistants from various locations that was sampled for study was done, who was trained and assist in data collection and in administering the research instruments. In addition, some respondents may be of low literacy levels hence may not be able to personally fill in the selfadministered questionnaire. In such circumstances, the research assistants administered the instruments, simplifying the questions and noting down their response on their behalf.

### 1.8 Delimitation of the Study

The study will be conducted in Laikipia County and will focus on the factors influencing community support for women in electoral politics, specifically the role played by the community's knowledge of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on gender representation as well as cultural factors. The study will focus on the 2013 electoral processes, starting from political party nominations to the general elections.

### 1.9 Basic Assumptions of the Study

In conducting the study, it will be assumed that the socio-political situation will remain the same throughout the period of study, that security situation will be favourable to allow a smooth data collection access. The study will also assume that the respondents will cooperate throughout the study by responding positively and truthfully.

### 1.10 Operational Definition of Terms Used in the Study

## Community

At the most basic and general level, a community can be understood as people with something in common, normally within a particular geographic area. Hillery (1955) gave a useful broad definition in saying that a community 'consists of persons in social interaction within a geographic area and having one or more additional common ties'.

## Community Support

This referred to the community willingness to vote and support for women into political positions. It will be assessed on the basis of the community expression of willingness to not only vote for the women, but also provide material, moral, psychological support to the women contestants for political office.

## Constraints

Constraints referred to obstacles that hinder women from effectively participating and realizing success in electoral processes in Laikipia County. In this study the constraints under examination were confined to financing of electoral campaigns, electoral violence and family support.

## Electoral Positions

These refer to the positions created by the constitution and meant to be occupied by qualified Kenyans through voting. The electoral positions considered in this study were presidency, gubernatorial, senate, women representative, parliament, and ward representative.

### 1.11 Organization of the study

This research proposal contains three chapters. Chapter one provides an introduction which is under: the background of the study; statement of the problem; purpose of the study; the research objectives; research questions that will guide the study; significance of the study; delimitations and
limitations of the study; the basic assumptions of the study and finally definitions of significant terms used in the study.

Chapter two is the literature review of relevant works done related to women participation in leadership, generally, and political leadership social in particular. This section describes the various factors that influence women participation in leadership with a special emphasis on political leadership. The chapter seeks to identify the gaps in research on women in political leadership. This section also provides the theoretical and conceptual frameworks upon which the study is based.

Chapter three is a description of the Research Methodology to be used. The research design and target population is explained. There is also a description of the sample size and sample selection. A description of the research instruments to be used, their validity and reliability is also included. There is also an elaboration of data collection procedures and data analysis techniques.

Chapter four has the results and findings of the study. The results are presented according to the objectives of the study. These are electoral positions sought by women candidates in electoral contests, socio-cultural factors influencing community support for women in electoral processes and constraints faced by women in electoral politics.

Chapter is the summary, conclusion and recommendations section. The study also presented each of these based on the three objectives the study set out pursue. Recommendations are divided into general, policy and areas for further research.

## CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a review of studies carried out by scholars in the field of women in political processes and leadership, generally. The objective of the section is to identify knowledge gaps that the current study intends to fill. The literature review is discussed under the following sub-heading: community attitude towards women involvement in leadership, women marital status and community support for political leadership and cultural factors and community support for women political leadership. The chapter also presents the conceptual framework that shows the linkage between the independent and dependent variables of the study.

### 2.2 Social Factors and Community Support for Women in Electoral Politics

The fact that there has been a glaring gender gap in favour of men in political leadership in Kenya is an indication that gender is indeed a factor in Kenyan politics. In a study conducted by the League of Kenya Women Voters among groups of women in Kitui and Nairobi on women voting attitudes and perceptions, a majority of the women $(81.2 \%)$ were of the view that Kenya would be a better place if more women were in elective politics. Another significant finding from the study was that when it came to voting, women look beyond gender and seek high calibre representation. The most important qualities in a leader, as ranked by the women in this study, are education and knowledge, followed by ability to deliver services, honesty and integrity, and experience and exposure in that order (League of Kenya Women Voters, Not dated).

In Kenya not more than two thirds of either appointive or elective posts should be of the same gender. In each out of 47 counties of Kenya there is one elective seat specifically reserved for women who represent that county in the National Assembly (Constitution of Kenya, 2010). This constitutional requirement gives the women an opportunity to get represented in electoral politics both in county and national levels.

The role of marriage and its implications for men and women, respectively, varies by ethnic group. Marriage has historically been one of the most gendered institutions, having different implications
for men and women (Katz Rothman, 1998). In most industrialized societies, marriage has positioned women inside the home to care for the domestic aspects of life, while placing men in the public sphere. The expectations for and roles given to married women have traditionally been distinct from those of married men, resulting in different health, economic, and social outcomes (Gove, 1972; Pienta, Hayward, \& Jenkins, 2000; Waite \& Gallagher, 2001).

Although these patterns have been reproduced across time and space, American society has developed to give women of all marital statuses greater freedoms and opportunities. The opportunities afforded married women in U.S. society likely become more salient when experienced by those from less egalitarian countries (Simpson, 2004). Case studies of Dominican immigrants have shown that women, in caring for the household and family, develop increased contact with mainstream institutions, such as schools and social service agencies. This contact with mainstream institutions, combined with new found freedoms, leads to increased political activity (Jones-Correa, 1998).

In Jordan, women multiple roles, responsibilities and obligations toward their families in addition to their work responsibilities and inability to balance between work and family responsibilities and lack of time management skills, lack of family and tribal support and frustration of women caused by the dominating male family members make women shy away in taking important decisions in their personal life. In addition, social stigma that working women are always careless about their families and house responsibilities has negatively influenced women participation in politics (Al Maaitah et al., 2012).

The traditional view that women should concentrate on their domestic roles has made politics to be seen as a 'no go zone' for them. Women continue to be socialized to believe that it is only men who can take up political leadership. A woman who takes up such challenges is said to be a bad woman (i.e. not a good mother, wife). In fact, most of the women in Kenya who have tried their hand in politics have been branded as divorcees and men-bashers (Nyokabi, 2010). This name-calling discourages other women from getting into politics. They continue to get discouraging comments such as: politics is dirty, it is not good for any woman of good moral standing, it is too violent, one
requires a lot of money, who can vote for a woman? Who wants to be led by a woman? We are not yet ready for women leaders (Kamau, 2003). Such perceptions may also influence the way women view themselves as leaders and, indeed, the way the public views their leadership abilities.

Previous research exploring the relationship between family structure and individual-level political behavior has consistently found married people to be more politically active than their unmarried counterparts (Stoker, 1995; Wolfinger \& Rosenstone, 1980; Milbraith \& Goel, 1982; Pattie \& Johnston, 2002; Burns et al., 2001). Scholars, again and again, cite the role of spouses as "built-in" political discussants, as well as witting and unwitting promoters of greater stability, larger social networks, and more communal integration. The presence of a spouse encourages political incorporation by extending an individual social contacts and increasing stability and entrenchment (Wolfinger \& Rosenstone, 1980; Milbraith \& Goel, 1982; Pattie \& Johnston, 2002; Burns et al., 2001). Greater numbers of social ties mean more peer pressure and a higher likelihood of participation (Putnam, 2000). Research suggests that increased social networks similarly work to encourage political mobilization (Togeby, 1999; Fennema \& Tillie, 1999; Forment, 1989; Cho, 1999). Marriage also translates into greater stability and community integration (Simpson, 2004).

Having noted that women in Kenya favour representation by other women, and that one's gender is not an important consideration in the characterization of what makes a good leader, the question begs then as to why women have continued to perform dismally in past elective contests for positions in parliament and local authorities. This is especially in view of the fact that according to the 2006 population census projections, women make up a majority ( $52.5 \%$ ) of Kenya's voting age population (League of Kenya Women Voters, Not dated).

The media works against the interests of women when it fails to give importance to matters that concern them and their achievements, and also when it focuses only on their weaknesses as leaders. On this, Omtatah (2008) observes that the media becomes biased against women when it fails to embrace gender-neutral language that does not promote barriers against women, such as glorification of conflict, intimidation, negative attitudes, and stereotypes by society and lack of support from the electorate'.

The traditional female/male roles are deeply ingrained and glorified in all Kenyan languages, in education, the mass media, and advertising. The society's perception of women is for the most part negative with the best women as mothers, and their capabilities and capacities going virtually unnoticed (Obura, 1991). Such sex stereotypes and social prejudices are inappropriate in the present society where female/male roles and male-headed families are no longer the norm. According to the United Nations (2000), sex stereotypes are among the most firmly entrenched obstacles to the elimination of discrimination, and are largely responsible for the denigration of the role and potential of women in society.

As for gender roles, a study on Determinants of Gender Roles among Jordanian Youth was conducted by Salem Olimat and Hamdan Al-Louzi (2010) to investigate young schools and university students' attitudes toward women roles, they agreed on equal opportunity in education and disagreed on equal opportunity in employment but showed negative attitudes concerning women leadership and managerial roles. Discrimination against women was identified in public sector which was demonstrated by the exclusion of women from important posts and from participation in them ignoring them when making important decisions related to their work (Al Adayleh, 1998). Many scholars addressed the low chances of women to emerge as leaders and obtain higher leadership positions and women were often unfairly evaluated than their male counterparts (Carli, 2001; Eagly \& Karau, 2002; Rudman \& Glick, 2001) since leadership is viewed as mainly a man traits such as masculine, unfeminine as well as uncomfortable zone for women (Lips, 2001; Ridgeway, 2001; Schein, 2001).

Lodiaga and Mbevi (1995) in their study conducted in Kenya revealed that there were several causes for under-representation of women in positions of authority and responsibility. These were deeprooted traditional/cultural and attitudinal concepts that influence both the employers' and employees' attitude, including women self-concept to be dominated. These socio-cultural beliefs and stereotypical views promoted the notion of women unsuitability for positions of power and responsibility. As a result of these attitudes, there were significant gender-based differences and of conflicts both in family and work places.

Al Maaitah, Oweis, Olimat, Altarawneh, and Hadeel (2012) in their study on barriers hindering Jordanian women advancement to higher political and leadership positions report discrimination against women in recruitment and appointment in higher positions in politics and other organizations and the biased preferences for male in higher positions. Lack of trust in women capabilities and abilities in managing hard tasks and assignments with the idea that women can only deal with soft issues only, therefore, main leadership and management positions are created for men only. Male dominant culture when assigning for top level jobs as women are seen as a second class and men disagreement with the idea of women assuming high political and leadership positions (Al Maaitah et al., 2012).

The subordinate position of women in the society seems to legitimize their exclusion from participation in political and decision making processes. Many stories depict women as disloyal, disagreeable, untrustworthy, stupid and even gullible (Kabira and Nzioki, 1995). Even today women continue to be left out of official records and when recognized, they are addressed as those who need welfare assistance rather than actors in the historical process. Karl (2001) explores some of the factors affecting women political leadership worldwide. Among the factors she cites include: household status; work related rights (maternity leave, job security, provision of child-care); employment and remuneration; double burden of work; education and literacy; access to financial resources; legal rights; traditions, cultural attitudes and religion; socialization and self-reliance; violence against women; the mass media; health; ability to control fertility.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) (2003) notes that gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure this fairness, measures must often be available to compensate for historical and political disadvantages that prevent women from otherwise operating on a leveled playing field with men. Equity leads to equality. Gender equality implies that women and men enjoy the same status. Gender equality means that women and men have equal opportunities for realizing their full human rights and potential to contribute to political, economic, social and cultural development, and to benefit from results thereof. Gender equality includes both quantitative and qualitative aspects. The quantitative perspective concerns the physical
gender balance in numerical terms. The qualitative perspective focuses on the equal distribution of power for both women and men.

Mitullah (2003) observes that women weak negotiation and bargaining skills work against them when it comes to seeking political office. Similarly, Omtatah (2008) argues that many women come into politics without the advantage of having had quality mentoring and hands-on-training, which may explain this lack of skills. Even for those who have had some mentoring, this will rarely have come from other women politicians, because few women have succeeded in electoral politics in the past and thus have the requisite experience. This clearly works to women disadvantage as they must learn on the job. As Omtatah (2008) further points out, many of these women are not well prepared for the anarchy that is Kenyan politics.

### 2.3 Cultural Factors and Community Support for Women in Electoral Politics

In her paper on Women Political Participation and Strategies for Greater Equality, Kim (2006) indicated that women face tremendous challenges in their attempt to become legislators which include dearth of women who wish to take part in politics, patriarchal culture, religion, unfair party nomination process and lack of experienced women. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2011 also reported that there were different factors holding women political participation in the Americas such as: discriminatory gender stereotypes of women, cultural practices, absence of special temporary measures or the limited scope of quota law implementation (Inter American commission on human rights, 2011).

Similar challenges face Arab women development which include: cultural factors, the stereotyped image of women, women's low self-confidence, lack of coordination among women organizations, effectiveness/efficiency of women empowerment programs, shortcomings in the institutional and legal frameworks, practices of political parties and election process, skepticism about the Agenda for Women empowerment, the process of development of Women empowerment strategies (Katbi, 2010). Sika (2011) also indicated that Arab women suffer discriminatory social norms, laws, and practices.

Main reasons hindering Jordanian women participation in parliament over the period of 1989-2003 were identified by the United Nations Development Fund for Women study on Jordanian women participation in political life which assess the performance of women parliamentarians (United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2007). Among the main reasons was that the new experience of democracy among women, as it was the first real experience in 1989 for women to vote and stand for election, made them face tribal bias to male domination, lack of confidence in women as politicians, culture and customs in Jordan, lack of national and women awareness on the importance of women in development as well as lack of support among women for each other.

A number of obstacles hindering women enhancement to higher leadership positions, the most significant of these obstacles were the negative official attitude towards leadership of women, the social norms and stereotype, sex discrimination against women for promotion to higher positions, as well as personal women circumstances such as families relations and husband lack of understanding of women roles and reluctance of employee to be headed by women (Azzam \& Al- Shhabi, 2003; Shoqm, 1999). Al Barak (2005) studied the perspective of female employees on Effect of the social, organizational and personal obstacles on woman holding leadership positions and found that there is a relationship between social, organizational and personal obstacles with the attainment of leadership positions by women.

Interestingly, Jordanian women in (Al-Hmood, 1994) were more into democracy than men at organizations as they manage and were more peaceful and friendly with their subordinates. (AlHmood, 1994) study also showed that women were more patients, independent, committed and hard workers than men. Although, Jordanian women have actively participated in women movement since 1945 to realize women advancement, few women has made it to higher leadership and political positions. Few women in Jordan have actively occupied political and higher leadership positions.

Omtatah (2008) points out retrogressive cultural and traditional practices such as son preference ideology, lack of belief in the importance of educating girls, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, bride price collection, widowhood rites and disinheritance of girls and women as some of
the ills that impede the quest for women's leadership in Kenya. Omtatah (2008) further notes that poor socialization where boys are prepared for leadership and girls for domestic roles also works against women's ascendancy to leadership. This name-calling discourages other women from getting into politics. They continue to get discouraging comments such as: politics is dirty, it is not good for any woman of good moral standing, it is too violent, one requires a lot of money, who can vote for a woman? Who wants to be led by a woman? We are not yet ready for women leaders (Kamau, 2003). Such perceptions may also influence the way women view themselves as leaders and, indeed, the way the public views their leadership abilities.

### 2.4 Theoretical Framework

The study was guided by the feminist theory. The theory recognizes the pervasive influence of gender divisions on social life and tries to understand women oppression and the structures in society that espouse this oppression and subordination. The feminist perspective, looking at the many similarities between the genders, concludes that women and men have equal potential for individual development. Differences in the realization of that potential, therefore, must result from externally imposed constraints and from the influence of social institutions and values (Nzomo, 1995).

Feminists advance three broad perspectives in trying to explain the absence of women from political leadership. The first perspective is personal factors in which the paucity of women in political positions is attributed to the psychosocial attributes, including personality characteristics, attitudes and behavioral skills of women themselves. Among personal factors are self-esteem and selfconfidence, lack of motivation and ambition to accept challenges "to go up the ladder", women's low potential for leadership, less assertiveness, less emotional stability and lack of ability to handle a crisis (Bond 1996). On the other hand, personal factors such as, assertiveness, confidence, resourceful creativeness, loyalty and trustworthiness help women to ascend to senior political leadership (Shahabudin and Singh, 2000).

The structural or institutional factors paradigm advances the view that it is the disadvantageous position of women in the organizational structure (few numbers, little power, limited access to resources) which shapes and defines the behaviour and positions of women. The underlying premise of this perspective is that men and women are equally capable of and committed to assuming positions of leadership. The structural factors that affect women negatively include: discriminatory practices against women in political parties, male resistance to women in high political positions; absence of policies and legislations to ensure participation of women; and limited opportunities for leadership training and for demonstrating competence by women (Bond 1996). The last perspective is the one advanced by Smulders (1998). She explores the cultural factors which link gender factors and organizational structure factors. Her analysis is concerned with the social construction of gender and the assignment of specific roles, responsibilities and expectations to women and men. The cultural factors lead to stereotypical views about women abilities within the cultural context. The view that political leadership is only suitable for men relegates women to secondary roles. The emphasis is placed on women role as mothers, caregivers and nurturers. These three broad perspectives will guide the study to explore the factors that influence community support for women political leadership in Laikipia County.

### 2.5 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The conceptual framework in figure 1 shows the graphical relationship between the independent and dependent variables of the study. The independent variable, that is, factors within the community that may influence their support for women political leadership (dependent variable) are conceptualized to constitute community attitudes towards women political leadership, women marital status and cultural factors. The conceptual framework of the study is shown in Figure 1. Community attitudes towards women political leadership is conceptualized to constitute the perceived women position in society, perceived women abilities (confidence, physical strength, intellectual ability and self esteem) and the extent to which women may be allowed to participate in political processes and leadership. It is hypothesized that community positive perceptions of women on these aspects will positively correlate with the reciprocal support for political leadership.

## Independent Variables

[Factors Considered]
Dependent Variables
[Community Support]

## Electoral Position

- Women Representative
- Ward Representative
- Parliamentary
- Senate
- Governor
- President


## Social-Cultural Factors

- Marital Status
- Education
- Religion
- Occupational Background
- Party Affiliation


## Constraints

- Campaign Financing
- Electoral Violence
- Family Support

|  | Social-Cultural Factors |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\bullet$ | Marital Status |
| - | Education |
| - Religion |  |
| $\bullet$ | Occupational Background |
| - | Party Affiliation |

## Women's Success in Electoral Contests

- Very High
- High
- Neutral
- Low
- Very Low



## Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

Social factors relates to how the community perceives gender roles with respect to married women as well as the position of women with different family structures. The study hypothesizes that, women with strong family backgrounds are likely to enjoy community support in political leadership than those who are either not married or divorced. Marital status will be evaluated in terms of the
family structures, family size and the stability of the relationship between a married woman and the spouse. Cultural factors in the conceptual framework relate to traditional practices within the community that are likely to work against women aspiring for political leadership. They also include societal norms and ideologies held by the community against women.

The dependent variable (support for women political leadership) will be evaluated in terms community willingness and readiness to provide moral and financial support for aspiring and potential women political leaders, their willingness to campaign for women, nominate and elect them as well as provide physical protection to women politicians.

In the Kenyan context, the relationship between the independent variables may be moderated by a number of policy demands such the constitutional requirements, gender mainstreaming, affirmative action and government policies requiring women representation in all spheres of development from social, economic and political dimensions. These policies may influence the community to inculcate positive attitudes towards women participation and break the traditional barriers to community support for women in political processes thus increasing the number of women political participation and representation.

### 2.7 Gaps in Literature Review

This chapter reviewed literature on the factors that militate against women participation in political leadership. From the review, it is acknowledged that a multitude of personal, structural and cultural factors pose serious challenges to women participation in not only political leadership from the broader perspectives. Despite the strong linkages between the said factors and women political leadership, there is scanty literature pointing to the relationship between these factors and community support for women political leadership. Therefore, this is the knowledge gap that the current study intends to close by analyzing the relationship between attitudes, women marital status, cultural factors and community support for women political leadership.

## CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the research design, sample and sampling procedures, research instruments, data collection and analyses procedures. Many scholars argue that educational research essentially is a systematic process of collecting and analyzing data for particular purposes (Morison, 2007; Wiersma and Jurs, 2005; Nardi, 2003; Wiersma, 2000). The term 'systematic' in research implies a sense of order and structure in the process of selecting research approaches, data collection, analyses, and interpretation. In other words, the research inquiry requires an integration of planning, process to research outcomes. In this context, Wiersma and Jurs (2005: 4) describe the characteristics of the systematic nature of the research process as identifying the problem, collecting data, reviewing information, analyzing data and drawing conclusions. Therefore, in view of the fact that this research is a systematic inquiry, this study will employ the dimensions of both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

### 3.2 Research Design

The study utilized the descriptive survey research design with quantitative and qualitative approaches. The design attempts to collect data from members of a population in order to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables. In the case of this study, the variable is women's participation in political leadership. This design will be appropriate due to its advantages as identified by Reinharz (1992). These are: It can put a problem on the map by showing that it is more widespread than previously thought; Survey-based prevalence data are useful in demonstrating that a problem is distributed in a particular way throughout the population. This distribution may suggest factors that contribute to the problem, and these factors, in turn, provide hints as to how the problem may be prevented or remedied through particular forms of action; It can also help identify differences among groups and changes over time.

### 3.3 Target Population

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) define target population as that population to which a researcher wants to generalize the results of the study. Therefore, the target population for the study will constitute all the 170,267 registered voters in the 3 constituencies of Laikipia County (Laikipia East, Laikipia West and Laikipia North) as per the 2012 IEBC voters register (IEBC, 2013). The distribution of the target population across the 3 Constituencies per County Assembly Ward is as shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Registered Voters in Laikipia County

| Constituency | County Assembly Ward | Registered Voters |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Laikipia West (urban) | Igwamiti | 30,443 |
|  | Marmanet | 18,340 |
|  | Ol-Moran | 6,849 |
|  | Rumuruti Township | 7,861 |
|  | Salama | 6,827 |
|  | Githiga | 11,813 |
| Sub-Total |  | 82,133 |
| Laikipia East | Nanyuki | 18,564 |
|  | Tigithi | 12,393 |
|  | Thingithu (peri-urban) | 12,165 |
|  | Umande | 7,661 |
|  | Ngobit | 12,338 |
| Sub-Total |  | 63,121 |
| Laikipia North | Mukogondo East | 6,090 |
|  | Mukogondo West (Rural) | 4,015 |
|  | Segera | 5,932 |
|  | Sosian | 8,976 |
| Sub-Total |  | 25,013 |
| Grand Total |  | 170,267 |

Source: Voter Registration Records, Laikipia County (www.iebc.or.ke)

### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

This section describes the sample size and the procedures to be used in picking the sampled subjects for the study.

### 3.4.1 Sample Size

A sample size is a definite plan determined before data is actually collected for obtaining a sample from a given population (Orotho, 2005). The sampling unit for the study was the electoral unit, the County Assembly Ward. Three County Assembly Wards were selected to participate in the study. Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) have provided a table of determining sample size for different populations (Appendix I). Krejcie and Morgan's table is based on the formula:

$$
S=\frac{X^{2} N P(1-P)}{d^{2}(N-1)+X^{2} P(1-P)}
$$

$\mathrm{S}=$ the required sample size
$\mathrm{X}^{2}=$ the table value of chi-square for one degree of freedom at the desired confidence level ( 0.05 ) which is equal to 3.841 (or $1.96^{2}$ )
$\mathrm{N}=$ the population size
$\mathrm{P}=$ the proportion of the population, assumed to be 0.50 since this would provide the maximum sample size.

Applying the formula, a population N of 170,267 will give a sample size of:

The $S=\frac{3.841 \times 170267 \times 0.5 \times(1-0.5)}{0.05^{2} \times 170267+3.841 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}$
margir
Wards in the County.

### 3.4.2 Sampling Procedures

Sampling refers to the process of obtaining information about an entire population by examining only a part of it (Kothari, 2004). Stratified sampling was used to select one, in each case, most rural, most urban and most peri-urban County Assembly Wards, each from the 3 Constituencies in the County. Stratified sampling will ensure the inclusion into the sample, sub-groups which otherwise could be omitted entirely by other sampling methods because of their small number in the population (Borg and Gall 1989; Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Proportionate allocation of the sample size based on the number of registered voters in each of the 3 selected County Assembly Wards will be done and the subjects to be interviewed to participate in the study from each County Assembly Ward picked through simple random sampling. In random sampling procedure, all subjects have equal chances of being selected (Joan, 2009). The distribution of the sample size per Constituency is shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Distribution of the Sample Size in Selected County Assembly Wards per Constituency

| Constituency | County | Geographical | Target | Sampling | Sample |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Assembly Ward | Location | Population | Fraction | Size |
| Laikipia West | Igwamiti | Urban | 30,443 | 0.65 | 249 |
| Laikipia East | Thingithu | Peri-urban | 12,165 | 0.26 | 100 |
| Laikipia North | Mukogondo West | Rural | 4,015 | 0.09 | 35 |
| Total |  |  | $\mathbf{4 6 , 6 2 3}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 4}$ |

### 3.5 Data Collection Instruments

According to Hale (2011) survey research can apply questionnaires (structured-closed or unstructured-open) and interview schedules for data collection. Therefore, the main instrument for collecting primary data for the study was the voter's questionnaire and the women leader interview guide. A voter's semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire will be designed for the study. The questionnaire will collect data from the household respondents while the interview guide will be
used to conduct in-depth interview with women leaders identified as key informants. Questionnaires was the most appropriate instruments for the study of the household respondents because as Kothari, (2004) observes it allowed for the explanation of the purpose of the study, and can be used to collect data from a large group of respondents at the same time. The first part of each questionnaire collected demographic information of the respondents while the second section had questions related to all the constructs of the study, that is, factors that influence community support for women in political leadership.

### 3.5.1 Validity

Validity indicates this degree to which an instrument measures the construct under investigation (Gall. et al., 2003). In construction of the instrument items, the researcher used simple English language such that the questions will be comprehensible and easy for the respondents to understand and reply. Effort will also be made to ensure that the items in the instruments address the objectives of the study. The questionnaires were then given to the supervisor and other research experts at University of Nairobi for expert judgment and to ascertain the content and face validity of the instruments.

To ensure that the instruments addressed clarity and relevance, the questionnaire was pilot-tested. Pilot-testing will involve trying the questionnaire in the field on a sample of 20 subjects in Marmanet County Assembly Ward. The purpose of the pilot study will not only be to identify the common problems within the designed questionnaire but also to incorporate the respondent's comments that were used to enhance the quality of the questionnaire to meet the purpose of study The subjects weretherefore be encouraged to make comments and suggestions concerning the instructions, clarity of questions asked and their relevance (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The results from the piloting was then be used in validation of the instruments by addressing omissions noted, correcting and revising the items appropriately.

### 3.5.2 Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability is the level of internal consistency or stability over time (William, 2006). Reliability has to do with the accuracy and precision of a measurement procedure (Kothari, 2004).The reliability of the questionnaire items will be determined using the Cronbach alpha coefficient. Cronbach alpha provides a good measure of reliability because holding other factors constant the more similar the test content and conditions of administration are, the greater the internal consistency reliability (Chong, 2012). Data from the pilot study will be used to determine the reliability of the questionnaires. The researcher will ensure that the instruments meet the threshold for acceptable reliability of alpha $\geq 0.70$. If this threshold will not be made from the pilot-test, revision of the instruments will be done.

### 3.6 Data Collection Procedures

The key ethical consideration of the study was obtaining informed consent to carry out the study on the respondents. Other considerations for respondents will be privacy and confidentiality which the research will uphold during the study by ensuring that information given by the respondent was be used against the respondent. Before the administration of the questionnaires, the researcher will seek a research permit, which will be preceded by a letter of approval obtained from Graduate School, University of Nairobi. Once authority is obtained, arrangement will be made to visit study area to map out the households that were to participate in the study. To make data collection easier, faster and more efficient, the researcher will explain to the respondents the necessity of conducting the research.

Since this study targets registered voters, the researcher and the research assistants, before administering the questionnaire, sought to know whether the identified individual is a registered voter by requesting to see the voter's card. If not a voter, the respondents were thanked and allowed to go and the next potential respondent sought after. The questionnaire will then be personally be administered by the researcher, with the help of trained research assistants. All the respondents were given time to respond to the questions and the questionnaires collected immediately. The next step
will be conducting in-depth interviews with identified the key informants (women leaders). This was done only after prior appointments with the leaders to ensure efficient utilization of available time.

### 3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

Since this study employed both quantitative approach, data analysis processes equally involved quantitative method. According to Krathwohl (1993) the quantitative research refers to research that describes phenomena in numbers and measures, instead of words.. Krathwhol's description shows how the data are presented.

The collected data was checked for completeness, edited, coded and then entered into the computer. Data analyses will be done with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Using the SPSS for quantitative analysis, descriptive statistics was applied to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data and establish characteristics of the study population. The tools of analysis used to present the result findings were frequency distributions and percentages.

### 2.8 Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from each respondent willing to participate in the study. Interviewers will introduce themselves to the participants and summarily explain the purpose of the study. Respondents were informed of their voluntary participation and that they have a right to anonymity, confidentiality and the right to choose not to answer questions if they don't feel comfortable doing so. They were also be informed that they have the right to withdraw from the interview and groups activities at any time.

### 3.9 Operationalization of the Study Variables

Table 3.1 shows how the variables of the study were operationalized
Table 3.1: Table of Operationalization of the Variables

| Objectives |  | Independent Variable | Dependent Variables | Data |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Analysis |  |  |  |  |


| representation | in • | Bill of rights | women financially |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | PPMC

## CHAPTER FOUR RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.0 Results

The current study analyzed factors influencing community support for women in electoral politics in Laikipia County, Kenya. The study achieved this by examining the electoral positions most sought by women in the electoral politics, socio-cultural factors influencing community support for women candidates and constraints faced by women candidates in electoral politics. Therefore, the findings of the study presented here focuses on electoral positions south by women, socio-cultural factors influencing community support and constraints faced by women in electoral politics.

### 4.1Profile of the respondents

This study covered a number of background information of the respondents. Respondents' background information covered were age, gender, level of education and religion. Respondents surveyed in this study were aged between 18 and over 61 years. Persons with and without any formal education were considered; and both gender constituted the study sample. The following are thus the detailed analysis of the respondents' profile or background information.

### 4.1.1 Gender

The study found it necessary to find out the respondents distribution by gender. This is because gender may have significant influence on community support given to women candidates in electoral politics. The current considered both females and males. Males accounted for over half of the respondents. As table 1.1 below shows $54.2 \%$ of the respondents were males while females had $45.8 \%$ representation in the study.

Table 1.1: Gender of the Respondents

| Gender | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Male | 162 | 54.2 |
| Female | 137 | 45.8 |
| Total | 299 | 100 |

Gender influences an individual's behavior, attitude, status, interaction and involvement in the decision making processes. In most African societies, gender ascribes certain roles that are instituted by society and sanctioned by customs. Certain electoral positions or electoral roles may be perceived
by the community to be too daunting or considered inappropriate to certain gender, hence the need to explore gender as one of the demographic profiles of the respondents.

### 4.1.2 Level of Education

Respondents' level of education was another important demographic profile that this study covered. Results in table 4.2 shows that majority of the respondents had secondary level of education. Respondents with secondary level of education constituted about 48.3 \%of the respondents. This was followed by respondents with college level of education, which accounted for $24 \%$ of the respondents. Individuals with no formal education, primary and university education formed $5.3 \%$, $11.4 \%$ and $11 \%$ of the respondents respectively.

Table 4.2: Respondents Level of Education

| Education | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 16 | 5.3 |
| No Formal Education | 34 | 11.4 |
| Primary | 145 | 48.3 |
| Secondary | 72 | 24.0 |
| College | 33 | 11.0 |
| University | 300 | 100.0 |

### 4.1.3 Age of the Respondents

The current study surveyed persons aged 18 years and above. Majority or $40.7 \%$ of the respondents were aged between 29 and 39 years. Persons aged between 18 and 28 were the second most popular, where they accounted for $26 \%$ of the respondents. Another important age group, the current study surveyed was those aged between 40 and 50, 51 and 61 years and over 61 years, which accounted for $21.7 \%, 10 \%$ and $1.7 \%$ of the respondents respectively as table 4.3 below shows.

Table 4.3: Respondents' Age

| Age | Frequency | Valid Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 78 | 26.0 |
|  | $18-28 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 122 |
| $29-39 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 65 | 20.7 |
| $40-50 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 30 | 21.7 |
|  | $51-61 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 5 |
|  | Over 61 Yrs | 300 |
| Total |  | 1.7 |

Age is an important socio-economic factor in terms of its influence on the decision making power of an individual. It also defines the various roles played by different people in the society especially in the aspect of pursuing a livelihood.

### 4.1.4 Respondents' Religion

An investigation into the religious composition of members as one of the demographic profiles revealed that respondents were affiliated to different religion. Their affiliation to different religion had diverse numerical strengths. For instance, Christians, Muslim and traditional religion accounted for $91.6 \%, 7.45$ and $1 \%$ of the respondents respectively. The religion of respondents is illustrated in table 4.12 below.

Table 4.4: Respondents' Religion

| Religion | Frequency | Valid Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Christianity | 274 | 91.6 |
| Muslim | 22 | 7.4 |
| Traditional Religion | 3 | 1.0 |
| Total | 299 | 100.0 |

### 4.2 Electoral Positions and Community Support for Women Aspirants

The first objective of this study was to establish the link between electoral positions sought by women candidates and community support. Here the study has only established the specific positions sought by women candidates, but also has sought the views of the respondents on whether considered women candidates as being fit for the electoral positions sought. The study has in this objective sought to understand sought to understand from the respondents whether they understood
the constitutional impetus provided for women who wish to participate in electoral political process. Lastly the study has also established the rate of women's participation in electoral processes.

### 4.2.1 Positions Most Sought By Women in Electoral Contests

Electoral offices that are currently contested for are ward representative, parliamentary, senate, women representative, governor, and president. These electoral offices are all sought competitively by qualified persons by both genders except for the office of women representative. According to results in table 4.5 below, the most sought electoral position by women was that of women representative, which accounted for about $99.3 \%$ of all the electoral offices women candidates stood for. The least sought electoral office was ward representative and parliamentary, where only $0.3 \%$ and $0.3 \%$ of the women offered themselves for. Presidency, gubernatorial and senatorial electoral office were never contested by any of the women who stood for elections during the March 2013 general elections.

Table 4.5: Electoral Positions Most Sought by Women Candidates

| Position | Frequency | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ward Representative | 1 | . 3 |
| Parliamentary | 1 | . 3 |
| Women Representative | 298 | 99.3 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

### 4.2.2 Positions Women Receive Greatest Community Support

While results in table 4.5 above shows the various electoral offices sought by women candidates, this study sought to establish which positions community would offer their greatest support to the women candidates. It is clear from the results in table 4.6 below that community's support to women candidates would be most noticeable for those candidates who contest the position of women representative. Community's support to women candidates in this electoral office constitutes about $98 \%$ of the support community accorded to women candidates. The positions of parliament and governor were other electoral offices that community indicated they could offer support to women candidates. But even in these positions community's support to women candidates would be less than $1 \%$. Although some respondents indicated that they could support women candidates for the
office ward representative and president, such support was below $1 \%$. No respondent indicated that they could support women candidates seeking for the position of senate.

Table 4.6: Electoral Positions Women Receive Most Community Support

| Position | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Ward Representative | 1 |  |
| Parliamentary | 2 | .3 |
| Governor | 2 | .7 |
| Women Representative | 294 | .7 |
| President | 1 | 98.0 |
| Total | 300 | .3 |

### 4.2.3 Positions Women Candidates Are Not Preferred

This study further considered it necessary to establish the electoral positions that community felt women should never seek their support for. As table 4.7 below reveals, community was against women contesting for the position of president. This view is supported by the fact that up to about $92.2 \%$ of the respondents indicated they would prefer women not standing in this particular electoral office. Another electoral office that respondents insisted women should not offer themselves for is that of parliament. This stand was taken by about5\% of the respondents. Women were also thought not qualified to serve in the office of governor, a view that supported by $2 \%$ of the respondents respectively.

Table 4.7: Electoral Positions Women Candidates Not Preferred

| Position | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Parliamentary | 15 |
|  |  |  |
| Governor | 6 | 5.0 |
|  | Women Rep | 1 |

### 4.2.4 Rate of Women's Participation in Electoral Politics

It was not clear prior to this study the extent to which potential women leaders had taken advantage of the current constitutional and legal on women's participation in electoral politics. This study thus
sought to establish the percentage of potential women candidates who offered themselves for various electoral offices. While it is not feasible that all women can offer themselves for elections, from a handful of potential women leaders, the study found that just about $25 \%$ and less of potential women leaders offered themselves for electoral offices. This position was supported by over $75 \%$ of the respondents as table 4.8 below shows.

Table 4.8: Rate of Women Participation Electoral Politics

| Position | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 65 | 21.7 |
| Less than 25\% | 235 | 78.3 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

### 4.2.5 Community Education Avenues

This study identified the government, community groups, non governmental organizations religious organizations and political parties/leaders as some of the institutions or avenues used to disseminate issues pertaining to the constitutional and legal provisions on women's rights and responsibilities in electoral politics. Non governmental organizations and religious organizations accounted for about $80.3 \%$ of information dissemination avenues/institutions. Despite their potentials to influence change at the grassroots, government and political leaders were the most lethargic when came to public education. As table 4.9 below shows, these two institutions/bodies accounted for mere $8 \%$ of the total information dissemination avenues.

Table 4.9: Community Education Avenues/Institutions

| Institution |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Frequency | Percent |
| Government | 23 | 7.7 |
| Community Groups | 26 | 8.7 |
| Religious Organizations | 31 | 10.3 |
| NGOs | 219 | 73.0 |
| Political Leaders | 1 | .3 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Public education on constitutional rights to electoral processes was largely given through non governmental organizations. Informal discussions by some of the respondents revealed that most of these meetings organized for public education were hurriedly convened, with meetings' agenda being drawn by the conveners without due considerations of suitability of timings and meeting venues. Claims of dissemination being conducted hurriedly without community's feedback sought on critical issues were rife. It is the study's submission that no critical, insightful and informed discussion on the constitutional rights of women could be achieved through such communication platforms.

### 4.2.6 Women's Exploitation of Constitutional Electoral Opportunities

It became necessary to establish from the community whether they thought women had fully exploited the opportunities accorded to them by new constitutional and legal dispensation on electoral politics. When asked to state whether that agreed that women had taken full advantage of the opportunities, only a paltry 1.75 and $6.7 \%$ strongly agreed and agreed respectively. A significant portion of the respondents, however, felt that women had not taken full advantage of the opportunities. As table 4.10 below shows $34.3 \%$ and $29.3 \%$ of the respondents respectively strongly disagreed and disagreed that women had fully exploited the electoral opportunities accorded by the new constitutional dispensation. A significant or $28 \%$ of the respondents could neither agree nor disagree that women had taken full advantage of the opportunities given to them by the new constitutional order.

Table 4.10: Women's Exploit on Electoral Opportunities

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Strongly Agree | 5 |
|  |  |  |
| Agree | 20 | 1.7 |
| Neutral | 84 | 6.7 |
| Disagree | 88 | 28.0 |
| Strongly Disagree | 103 | 29.3 |
| Total | 300 | 34.3 |

### 4.2.7 Community's Knowledge of Women's Constitutional Rights to Electoral Politics

It has been pointed out in table 4.9 that various agencies/institutions offered to educate the public on constitutional legal rights of women to electoral processes. This study therefore found it fit to establish how adequate these initiatives were to the community. It appears that community enlightenment on the electoral rights of women is very low if results in table 4.11 are anything to go by. Majority of the respondents reported that the education were either least adequate or inadequate. It just about $3.7 \%$ and $6 \%$ of the respondents that conceded that the information obtained the public education were very adequate and adequate respectively. About $16.4 \%$ of the respondents could not tell whether the information gathered through public education were adequate or inadequate.

Table 4.11: Community's Knowledge of Women's Electoral Rights

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very Adequate | 12 | 3.7 |
| Adequate | 18 | 6.0 |
| Neutral | 49 | 16.4 |
| Least adequate | 60 | 20.1 |
| Inadequate | 161 | 53.8 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

### 4.2.8 Community's Knowledge of Women's Rights and Electoral Support

From the foregoing, it was necessary to inquire from the respondents the extent to whether knowledge of the electoral rights of women influenced their support women candidates. Majority or $38.7 \%$ of the respondents pointed that to an extent their support for women candidates was influenced by their knowledge of the electoral rights of women. Following this was about $29.3 \%$ of the respondents who believed that their support for women candidates was to a great extent influenced by their knowledge of the electoral rights of women. But some respondents indicated their knowledge of the electoral rights least and no way influenced their support for women candidates. Respondents who noted that they were least and no way influenced accounted for $3.7 \%$ and $5.7 \%$ of the respondents respectively as table 4.12 below shows.

Table 4.12: Support for Women based on Knowledge of Electoral Rights

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Great extent | 88 | 29.3 |
| Extent | 116 | 38.7 |
| Neutral | 68 | 22.7 |
| Least extent | 11 | 3.7 |
| No extent | 17 | 5.7 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

### 4.3 Socio-Cultural Factors and Community Support for Electoral Office

Analysis of the relationship between socio-cultural factors and community support for women in electoral processes was the second objective of this study. Socio-cultural issues that were covered in this objective are marital status, educational background, age, religious affiliation, occupation background and political party affiliation. The study has, however, one further to establish from the respondents each of these socio-cultural factors influenced their support for women candidates seeking various electoral positions.

### 4.3.1 Preferred Candidate's Marital Status for Electoral Office

This study presented the respondents with a range of marital statuses including single, separated, divorced, widow and married. Respondents were then asked to indicate the marital status they would most prefer their women contesting for an electoral office to come from. Table 4.13 gives a summary of the marital status of respondents. An examination of table 4.13 shows that majority of the respondents preferred women who were married to stand for elections. Respondents in this category constituted about $55.7 \%$ of the respondents. This was followed respondents who single women run for electoral offices. Here about $43.6 \%$ affirmed their choice for single women to contest for electoral offices. Less than $1 \%$ of the respondents preferred women who had divorced to stand for elections in any of the electoral offices.

Table 4.13: Preferred candidate's Marital Status for Electoral Office

| Status | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 127 | 43.6 |
| Single | 162 | 55.7 |
| Married | 2 | .7 |
| Divorced | 291 | 100.0 |

### 4.3.3 Preferred Candidate's Level of Education for Electoral Office

Education as one of the profiles of a population provides an individual with insight, social status, interaction, standard of living and consideration for decision and policy making. According to results in table 4.14 , majority or $92.3 \%$ of the respondents preferred their women candidates to hold a university level of education. This was followed by $7 \%$ of the respondents who insisted that women candidates for electoral office to have college education. Less than $1 \%$ of respondents preferred women seeking for electoral office to have secondary education.

Table 4.14: Preferred candidate's Level of Education for Electoral Office

| Education | Frequency | Percent |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Secondary | 3 |  |
| College | 21 | .7 |  |
|  | University | 276 | 7.0 |
|  | Total | 300 | 92.3 |

The current study argues that higher levels of education, advanced and specialized training would greatly enhance individuals' performance in their respective offices including the electoral ones. From this perspective, it is this study's submission that community's belief that there is higher works output from individuals with higher levels of education may have influenced their desire to have women seeking for electoral offices to have higher level of education. But these responses also underscores the lack of knowledge from many members of the community with regard to constitutional and legal requirements for level of education required of various persons contesting electoral offices. For instance, it is only the contestants for the office of president and governor that training up to university level is a requirement. The rest of the electoral offices require just
secondary level of education. Therefore, placing high educational demands on women candidates on positions that require modest levels of education is either bone out of dishonesty or complete ignorance on the part of the community about constitutional requirements on electoral offices. It is even more dishonest on the part of the community to demand that women candidates to hold college and university education yet the same community insist that they do not support women to contest for the office of president and governor (tables 4.6 and 4.7), where such academic qualification are mandatory requirements.

### 4.3.4 Candidate's Level of Education and Community Support for Electoral Office

Given the high educational expectation community expect of women to have as a pre-requisite for contesting for an electoral office, the study found it important to understand from the community the extent to which such expectations would influence their actual support for women candidates. As table 4.15 below shows, about $29.2 \%$ and $29.2 \%$ of the respondents noted that to a great extent and extent respectively women's level of education would influence their support for such women candidates.

Table 4.15: Candidate's Level of Education and Community Support in Electoral Office

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Great extent | 86 | 29.2 |
| Extent | 86 | 29.2 |
| Neutral | 83 | 28.1 |
| Least extent | 36 | 11.2 |
| No extent | 9 | 2.4 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

The current study concedes that people with reasonable levels of education may provide its beneficiaries with a better conception of issues and therefore better solution to problems that electoral offices confront from time to time. It thus understandable when most respondents asserted that contestants' level of education to a great extent influence their support. Given several decades of marginalization of women, it is clear that even with current efforts to improve girl child education, a higher proportion of males still remain more educated than females. Exacerbating this is the
migratory nature of community inhabiting a significant part of Laikipia County, which renders provision of education a bit difficult. While recent years has seen the use of mobile schools to boost the education of pastoralist communities such as those in the study site, a number of them still remain lowly educated. The low level of education of a significant number of women in the county implies that they have limited opportunities and success chances in electoral politics given the current community's fixation to higher levels of education.

### 4.3.5 Preferred Candidate's Age for Electoral Office for Electoral Office

Table 4.16 summarizes the age distribution the respondents would have their preferred for electoral offices. From table 4.2 it is evident that majority of the respondents preferred women candidates are aged between 29 and 39 years. Respondents who preferred their women candidates to belong to this age group accounted for about $45.1 \%$ of the respondents. This category is followed by ages 40-50 years. Women candidates from this age group were preferred by about $24.9 \%$ of the respondents. About $21.9 \%$ of the respondents reported that they would women candidates aged between 18 and 28 years to contest the electoral offices. The least considered age group for women candidates contesting for electoral offices were 51 and 61 years and over 61 years, which were preferred by just $7.1 \%$ and $1 \%$ of the respondents respectively.

Table 4.16: Preferred candidate's Age for Electoral Office

| Age | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 65 | 21.9 |
|  | $18-28 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 134 |
| $29-39 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 74 | 45.1 |
|  | $40-50 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | 21 |

### 4.3.6 Candidate's Age and Community Support for Electoral Office

The fact that most respondents preferred women seeking for electoral offices to be between the age of 18 and 50 years, this study found it important to establish from the community whether such
preferences influenced their support for women candidates. Results in table 4.16 reveal that most respondents agreed that their support for women candidates in electoral politics were influenced by the candidates' age. Respondents who subscribed to this accounted for $62.2 \%$ of the respondents. There were a significant proportion of the respondents who strongly agreed that candidates' age influenced their support for women contesting electoral offices. This view was supported by $24.4 \%$ of the respondents. A candidates' age was, however, an important consideration to about $11 \%$ of the respondents. About $2.3 \%$ of the respondents were non-committal on the candidates as a factor worth considering in the choice of women candidates in electoral politics.

Table 4.16: Candidate's Age and Community Support in Electoral Office

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Strongly Agree | 73 | 24.4 |
| Agree | 186 | 62.2 |
| Neutral | 8 | 2.3 |
| Disagree | 13 | 4.3 |
| Strongly Disagree | 20 | 6.7 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Age determines the roles, duties and responsibilities such as labour, security, marriage and leadership that are assigned to an individual as a member of the society. A person of 18 years and above is considered an adult and is capable of making sound and mature decisions and that is why the study considered ages from 18 yrs and above. These findings are similar to a large body of evidence that links age of individuals and performance. Scholars such as Verhaegen and Salthouse (1997), Ball et al. (2002), and Kotlikoff (1988), in a series of studies found that people were most productive between the age of 38-48 years. They also reported lower productivity among employees above the age of 50 years. Employees' cognitive abilities such as reasoning, speed and episodic memory declines significantly toward 50 years of age and more thereafter (Ball et al., 2002). Community's preference for younger people may have been influenced by the fact that younger people are well endowed with technical skills and energy, which suits them for most of responsibilities of the electoral offices. Mental agility, which is a characteristic of younger people, may have also made them the most preferred by the community. But it should also be recalled that
the dominant political party coalition (Jubilee Coalition) in the Laikipia emphasized more on the youth and this may have contributed to community's preference to younger people.

### 4.3.7 Preferred Candidate's Religion for Electoral Office

Religion is another important socio-cultural attributes of the women candidates that this study examined. Most of the respondents preferred their women candidates seeking for electoral office to have a Christian background. As table 4.17 shows $87.7 \%$ of the respondents preferred women candidates contesting an electoral office to come from a Christian background. Some respondents preferred women candidates contesting for an electoral office to be a Muslim. This position was considered by $8.5 \%$ of the respondents. Women candidates professing traditional faith were preferred by a mere $3.8 \%$ of the respondents.

Table 4.17: Preferred candidate's Religion for Electoral Office

| Religion |  | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Christianity <br>  <br> Muslim | 257 | 87.7 |  |
|  | Traditional Religion | 25 | 8.5 |
|  | 18 | 3.8 |  |

It should be recalled that majority of community members in Laikipia profess the Christian faith. As already noted under demographic profiles of the respondents most of respondents were Christians. It is therefore not surprising that majority of the respondents would prefer candidates professing their faith for an electoral office. Muslims constitute even nationally less than $15 \%$ of the national population. Similar trends in their distribution are thus expected to obtain in counties such as Laikipia that are not one of those dominated by people of Muslim background. Traditional religion in the county as like at the national level constitute almost negligible percentage of the national population. The small percentage presence of population professing the Muslim and traditional religion faiths may have contributed the low preference of candidates from these two religious backgrounds.

### 4.3.8 Candidate's Religion and Community Support for Electoral Office

Religion as a socio-cultural factor was also examined in the context of its influence on community's support for women candidates in electoral politics. When asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed that their support for women contesting for electoral offices was influenced by candidates' background. Most of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that candidates' religious background would influence their support for women candidates seeking electoral offices. Respondents in this category accounted for about $62.5 \%$ of the all members of the community surveyed in this study. However, about $6.7 \%$ of the respondents felt that candidate's religious background was not an important factor that could influence their choice of women candidates. About $30.7 \%$ of the respondents could not confirm nor deny that religion would influence their choice of female candidates contesting electoral offices.

Table 4.18: Candidate's Religion and Community Support in Electoral Office

| Response | Frequency | Percent |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Strongly Agree | 77 | 26.0 |
|  | Agree | 108 | 36.5 |
|  | Neutral | 95 | 30.7 |
|  | Disagree | 14 | 4.7 |
| Strongly Disagree | 6 | 2.0 |  |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |  |

Religion binds together people who profess the same faith by inculcating in them common values. Religious doctrines, tenets, practices, ceremonies and festivals provide a sense of belonging to its members. Religious leaders are often accorded some respect in critical situations that need sobriety and consensus. Almost all religions preach and teach tolerance, respect for one another and his property, and sharing and concern for the less fortunate members of the society. Religious affiliations have been found to be positively associated to economic development in several countries Grier (1997). On the same breath, Guiso et al. (2003) while analyzing data from the World Values Surveys documented a significant association between religious beliefs and certain attitudes conducive to economic growth. It is these aspects that may have influenced some of members of the community to prefer candidates from certain religious practice for electoral office. This study also
believes that some religious beliefs such as those that encourage fundamentalism may be seen in bad light and thus candidates professing such faiths might not be positively valued for electoral offices. Traditional religious practices such as those done Akorino church that prohibit modern medication for their followers may be seen as retrogressive and thus followers such religious doctrines may be considered for electoral offices. But religion could be significantly consideration in situations where fundamental values and ideology based differences exist. However, this study could not establish any evidence of fundamental differences among people professing different faiths in a scale that threatened co-existence of members of the community.

### 4.3.9 Preferred Candidate's Occupational Background for Electoral Office

This study also reflected on the candidates' occupational background and its influence on community's support to women candidates seeking for electoral offices. Occupational backgrounds were broadly categorized into civil service, non governmental, private corporations, civic or political background and academic or teaching sectors. Private corporations and civic or political background were the most popular background women candidates were required to have. For instance, $40.7 \%$ and $37.7 \%$ of the respondents preferred women candidates from political and private corporation background respectively. As table 4.19 below shows, about $17 \%$ of the respondents preferred women contesting for an electoral office to have an academic or teaching background. Women candidates from the civil service and non governmental organization's sectors were the least preferred where they were preferred by a paltry $4.6 \%$ of the respondents.

Table 4.19: Preferred candidate's Occupational Background for Electoral Office

| Sector | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Civil service | 7 |
|  | 7 | 2.3 |
|  | NGOs | 113 |

### 4.3.10 Candidate's Occupational Background and Community Support for Electoral Office

The extent to which community support for women candidates was influenced by their occupation background was another issue this study analyzed. As table 4.20 below shows that about $15.7 \%$ of the respondents conceded that to a great extent their support for women candidates were influenced by the candidate's occupation background. Similarly, a significant or $55.7 \%$ of the respondents asserted that to an extent their support for women candidates was influenced by candidate's occupational background. The study also established that about $16.3 \%$ of the respondents could not tell whether a candidate's occupational background played any part in the choice of such candidates seeking electoral offices. About $12.3 \%$ of the respondents were indicated that the least and no extent their support for women seeking electoral offices were influenced by the candidates' occupational background.

Table 4.20: Candidate's Occupation Background and Community Support in Electoral Office

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Great extent | 47 |  |
| Extent | 167 | 15.7 |
| Neutral | 49 | 55.7 |
| Least extent | 19 | 16.3 |
| No extent | 18 | 6.3 |
| Total | 300 | 6.0 |

Discussions were rife about the merits of having persons with private sector backgrounds to be in charge of crucial electoral offices. A lot of such discussions centred on the office of the governor, which most people felt that governors should be sourced from senior managers from blue chips companies. It was then argued that the office of governor requires a real professional that bring new management and professional ethos. But others felt that persons with political experience stood a better chance of offering effective leadership in the office of senate. These discussions may have dissuaded public perception about relevant occupational background for persons seeking electoral offices. This may have led most members of the community to prefer woman candidates with a background from private corporations and civic or political background. But these expectations in large part may work in favour of male contestants. Many years of women marginalization implies
that very few women have rich corporations and political background as men dominate these sectors. This means that the number of women with these desired credentials is very small. Further, limited success that women have encountered in electoral politics does not provide enough impetus to leave their positions in the private sector for electoral politics.

### 4.3.11 Importance of Political Party Affiliation in Electoral Politics

Electoral process in Kenya until recently was based on political parties. A candidate standing fro any elections was to run on a particular registered political party ticket. The new constitution, however, allows individuals to run as independent candidate. However, the concept of independent candidacy is still new and has not been embraced by many Kenyans if the number of independent candidates that successfully contested the electoral offices is anything to go by. But the significance of political parties' affiliation in electoral political processes has been underscored by the study results presented in table 4.21 below.

Table 4.21: Importance of Political Party Affiliations in Electoral Process

| Importance | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Very important | 68 | 22.7 |
| Important | 120 | 40.1 |
| Neutral | 85 | 28.4 |
| Least important | 19 | 6.4 |
| Not important | 7 | 2.3 |
| Total | 299 | 100.0 |

It is clear from table 4.21 that $40.1 \%$ of the respondents conceded that political party affiliation is important in electoral processes. About $22.7 \%$ of the respondents reported that political party affiliation is very important in electoral politics. But the important of political party affiliation in electoral process could not be confirmed nor denied by $28.4 \%$ of the respondents. A small proportion of the respondents felt that political party was least important to women in electoral politics. Respondents who took this view constituted about $6.4 \%$ of the respondents. However, 2.3\% of the respondents considered political party affiliation as being not important to women's success in electoral politics.

### 4.3.12 Candidate's Party Affiliation and Community Support for Electoral Office

As is already noted above, most respondents considered political affiliation as being essential to the success of women in electoral contests. From the foregoing, it was important for the study to establish the extent to which political parties women in electoral contests were affiliated to influenced their choice of such women. Over half of the respondents of the respondents held that their support for women candidates in electoral was to great extent dependent on the political parties women were affiliated. As table 4.22 below shows, about $12.2 \%$ of the respondents said to an extent their support for women candidates was influenced by the political parties these women were affiliated. A significant percentage of the respondents could not tell whether or their support for women candidates was dictated by the political parties the candidates were affiliated to. Constituting this category was $28.4 \%$ of the respondents. About $4.1 \%$ and less than $1 \%$ of the respondents indicated that women's political parties' affiliation least extent and to no extent influenced their support for women candidates seeking electoral offices in the last general elections.

Table 4.22: Candidate's Party Affiliation and Community Support in Electoral Office

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Great extent | 163 | 55.1 |
| Extent | 36 | 12.2 |
| Neutral | 84 | 28.4 |
| Least extent | 12 | 4.1 |
| No extent | 1 | .3 |
| Total | 296 | 100.0 |

The influence of political party affiliation and community support appears to be great if results in table 4.24 above are anything to go by. The dominant political parties in the last general elections were controlled by men. Why the gender composition of the rank and file major politics in Kenya today, there is no doubt that the number of men holding key positions in these parties far much outweighs those of women. Lack of transparency and democracy in political parties' operations implies that women are heavy disadvantaged in key political activities such as party primaries. Women therefore cannot easily pass through the party primaries to contest for the electoral offices. Most of the political parties are also personality rather than ideology based. Who contests a party
electoral office is many cases done by the party establishment rather than the voters. Similarly many political parties are regional based, making it difficult for women contesting for an electoral office in a party that is not popular regionally to realize any electoral victory. It easy for the regional political party to easily paint women candidates contesting in other political parties as being used by outsiders to undermine the regional political kingpins. Women therefore cannot have any significant support and success in an environmental where party affiliation is a key determinant of community's support given the lack of democracy and ideological orientations underpinning Kenya's political parties.

### 4.4 Constraints Faced by Women in Electoral Politics

This study in its third objective analyzed the kinds of constraints faced by women in electoral politics. The study covered constraints relating to campaign financing, electoral violence and family support. The following is a detailed examination of the constraints faced by women in electoral politics.

### 4.4.1 Importance of Source of Income in Electoral Office

Campaign financing is one of the issues this study investigated. At the heart of financing electoral campaigns is the source financing. Unlike in developed countries where electoral candidates organize elaborate funds raising campaigns, Kenya like other developing countries candidates meet larger if not the entire cost of campaigns. It is on this basis that issues to do with incomes become an important area of inquiry more so if examined in the context of constraints facing women in electoral politics. This study first sought to establish how the respondents perceived the importance of candidates' sources of incomes.

Table 4.23: Importance of Incomes in Electoral Contests

| Importance | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Very important | 77 |
| Important | 154 | 25.7 |
| Neutral | 56 | 51.3 |
| Least important | 5 | 18.7 |
| Not important | 8 | 1.7 |
| Total | 300 | 2.7 |

An examination of table 4.23 reveals that about $25.7 \%$ and $51.3 \%$ of the respondents considered women candidates' sources of incomes as being very important and important respectively. However, the importance of women candidates' sources of incomes was not appreciated by all the respondents as about $2.7 \%$ of the respondents considered the issue as not being important. But candidates' sources of incomes were least important in electoral politics according to $1.7 \%$ of the respondents. About $18.7 \%$ of the respondents could not tell whether or not candidates' sources were important in electoral politics.

### 4.4.2 Sources of Incomes of Women's Candidates in Electoral Politics

Table 4.24 below indicates that business formed the bulk of the women candidates in electoral politics in Laikipia County where $86.6 \%$ of the candidates sourced their incomes from business. Business is followed by formal employment, which accounted for $13 \%$ of the sources of incomes for women candidates in electoral politics in the county. Less than $1 \%$ of the women candidates did not have a tangible source of income and were as such described as unemployed by the respondents.

Table 4.24: Sources of Incomes for Women in Electoral Contests

| Source | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 39 | 13.0 |
|  | Formal Employment | 259 |

Teaching and civil service were the main sources of formal employment in the study site. Education especially secondary education and above was a major qualification requirements in formal employment. Women especially those from Laikipia North still have few of its women with secondary and post-secondary levels of education. This in effect implies that very few (if any) of these women from the locality would qualify for teaching and civil service job opportunities in the area. It is this disadvantaged position of women with regard to formal education that this study attributes for their less presence in formal employment in the county. Lack of academic qualifications may have compelled respondents to seek income opportunities from other sectors other than formal employment. This explains why most women in the county had business as their preferred source of incomes. Some forms of business require reasonable levels of education while others do not. Therefore business would be considered as a viable source of income by all sectors of the population regardless of one's level of education. This therefore explains why business is the dominant source of income for women in electoral politics.

### 4.4.3 Incomes as Hindrance to Women's Success Electoral Politics

Most of the women in electoral politics in Laikipia County had business as their main source of income. Sources of income had already been pointed by most of the respondents as being important in electoral politics. Campaign financing is one of the greatest challenges faced by people engaged in electoral processes especially those contesting for electoral offices. This study thus offered to understand the extent to which incomes hindered women from realizing their electoral dreams. As table 4.25 below shows over $80 \%$ of the respondents concurred that incomes was a major hindrance to women's success in electoral politics. Specifically, $32.7 \%$ and $55.7 \%$ of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that incomes were a major hindrance to women's success in electoral politics. About $7,7 \%$ of the respondents felt that it was neither a hindrance nor an impetus to women in electoral politics. But incomes as hindrance to women's progress in electoral politics not supported by all the respondents. It is clear in table 4.25 below that $2.7 \%$ and $1.3 \%$ of he respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that incomes were a hindrance to women's success in electoral politics.

Table 4.25: Incomes as Hindrance to Women's Success Electoral Politics

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Strongly Agree | 98 | 32.7 |
| Agree | 167 | 55.7 |
| Neutral | 23 | 7.7 |
| Disagree | 8 | 2.7 |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 1.3 |
| Total | 300 | 100.0 |

Most of the women in electoral politics in Laikipia County had business and formal employment as their main sources of incomes while others were unemployed. Elections are increasingly becoming expensive undertakings where candidates are required to pay nomination fees running in hundreds of thousands to both their political parties and electoral commission. Besides, candidates are also required to print campaign materials such t-shirts, posters, cups, banners among others. The increased demands for these items make their requisition even more expensive. Candidates are also required to pay for their campaign personnel, higher automobiles and security services. In some cases the cost of campaigns o even higher where electorates are conditioned to seek for cash handouts to win their support and allegiance. Further candidates are also occasionally required to contribute to the campaign kitty for the sponsoring party's presidential candidate. Laikipia County being a largely rural area implies that most of the businesses including those run by women in electoral politics are small scale in nature. This further implies that incomes derived from these small businesses may not sufficiently fund effective electoral campaign machinery such as those covering the entire county (Senate, Governor and Women Representative) or even a constituency (parliamentary seat). With their meager incomes, women increasingly find themselves confined to small electoral areas such as Ward Representative. This perhaps explains why ward was the only electoral area that a woman candidate realized an elector success.

### 4.4.4 Frequency of Electoral violence

Kenya's electioneering period is only characterized by violence albeit in different degrees and scale. This study therefore offered to understand issues to do with electoral violence and its possible effect
on the success of women candidates seeking for electoral offices. A huge proportion of the respondents reported electoral violence in Laikipia County was rare, with as many as $87 \%$ of the respondents conforming as such. Less than $2 \%$ of the respondents reported that election violence occurred very often and often. Occasional electoral violence was reported by about $10.3 \%$ of the respondents as table 4.26 below shows. Non occurrence of election violence was reported by a mere $1.3 \%$ of the people surveyed in this study.

Table 4.26: Frequency of Electoral Violence

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Very often | 2 |

### 4.4.5 Electoral Violence as Hindrance to Women's Success Electoral Politics

The fact that most respondents indicated that election violence occurred rarely does not in itself imply that they could not deny women electoral victories. Accordingly, despite its rare occurrence, this study south to establish the extent to which electoral have served as a hindrance to women's success in electoral politics. Electoral violence as hindrance to women in electoral politics was conformed by about $92 \%$ of the respondents. In terms of specific response, $32.8 \%$ and $60.9 \%$ of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that electoral violence hindered women from realizing their electoral dreams. Whether or not electoral violence was a hindrance to women's success in electoral politics could not be confirmed by about $4.7 \%$ of the respondents. But $1 \%$ and less than $1 \%$ disagreed and strongly disagreed that electoral violence was a hindrance to women's success in electoral politics.

Table 4.27: Electoral Violence as Hindrance to Women's Success Electoral Politics

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Strongly Agree | 98 | 32.8 |
| Agree | 182 | 60.9 |
| Neutral | 14 | 4.7 |
| Disagree | 3 | 1.0 |
| Strongly Disagree | 2 | . 7 |
| Total | 299 | 100.0 |

Despite electoral violence being rare, the study has since established that it is one of the greatest impediments to women's progress in the electoral politics. Violence could occur rarely but such occurrence could coincide with important electoral activities such as during party primaries and presentation of party certificate to the electoral commission for clearance to officially seek for the desired electoral office. Although rare these days, but in the past there were cases of candidates being kidnapped and held hostage until the electoral commission's clearance hours have expired. In some cases, violence would be stage managed during party primaries to ostensibly prevent particular candidates' supporters from participating in the party primaries. Similarly violence could be initiated by some candidates on realizing an imminent electoral defeat. The sole reason for doing this is to blame their loss on the violence and demand a repeat of the elections. These tactics are common during elections especially at party primary level. Although both genders may suffer from the consequences of such electoral violence, women candidates stand to suffer more due to their already disadvantaged position in society as well most of the dominant political parties in Kenya.

### 4.4.6 Importance of Family Support in Electoral Politics

The family is an important social institution in the life of an individual. Individuals often seek family support in what they want to do and even seek solace from their families wherever they are in distress. It is this significance of the family that its role in the success of women in electoral politics s being explored. How important family support to women in electoral politics was the starting point in this exploration. When asked to state about the importance of family support in electoral politics, over $80 \%$ of the respondents considered family support as being important. Table 4.28 below shows that $28.1 \%$ and $59.5 \%$ of the respondents felt that family support in electoral politics was very
important and important respectively. A total of $2.6 \%$ of the respondents believed that family support was least important and not important in electoral politics. But the study also established that about $9.7 \%$ of the respondents could tell whether or not family support was important in electoral politics.

Table 4.28: Importance of Family Support in Electoral Politics

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 84 | 28.1 |
|  | Very Important | 178 |
| 59.5 |  |  |
| Important | 29 | 9.7 |
| Neutral | 4 | 1.3 |
| Least Important | 5 | 1.3 |
| Not Important | 300 | 100.0 |
| Total |  |  |

### 4.4.7 Adequacy of Family Support to Women in Electoral Politics

Family support in electoral contests is very important according to the people surveyed in this study. But such family must also be adequate to enable women contestants have effective electoral campaigns. Results in table 4.29 depict people's response on the adequacy of family support given to women contesting electoral positions. The results show that $19.1 \%$ and $44.5 \%$ of the respondents considered family support given women in electoral politics as very adequate and adequate in that order. About $12.7 \%$ and $14.7 \%$ of the respondents felt that family to women candidates was inadequate and very inadequate respectively. Whether family support to women candidates was adequate or inadequate could not be discerned by $9 \%$ of respondents.

Table 4.29: Adequacy of Family Support to Women in Electoral Politics

| Response | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Very Adequate | 57 | 19.1 |
| Adequate | 133 | 44.5 |
| Neutral | 27 | 9.0 |
| Inadequate | 38 | 12.7 |
| Very Inadequate | 44 | 14.7 |
| Total | 299 | 100.0 |

It is discernible from table 4.29 above that most of the women candidates had full support from their family members. This study thus concludes that lack of family support could not be a possible hindrance and for that matter a constraint faced by women candidates. Therefore, the inability of women candidates to perform well in electoral politics could not be significantly attributed to the indifference of family members but other factors notably inadequate financing of electoral campaigns and electoral violence.

### 4.4.8 Success Level of Women in Electoral Politics

The extent to which community supported women contesting for electoral offices would be best illustrated with the level of success women candidates achieved. It is for this reason that this study sought to understand from the respondents the success level of women who offered themselves for electoral contests in the 2013 general elections. Results in table 4.30 below show that women have not faired well in the electoral processes. This is due to the fact that up to $96 \%$ of the respondents considered women success rates in the electoral politics to be very low and low. About $2 \%$ of the respondents could clearly gauge the success rates of women in electoral politics. Only $2 \%$ of the respondents felt women success level in the 2013 general elections was high.

Table 4.30: Success Level of Women in Electoral Politics

| Response | Frequency | Percent |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | High | 6 |  |
|  | Neutral | 6 | 2.0 |
|  | Low | 90 | 2.0 |
|  | very Low | 198 | 30.0 |
|  | Total | 300 | 66.0 |

It is instructive to note that only one woman contestant in electoral politics was elected in the entire Laikipia County. It is further important to observe here that the leader was elected as a ward representative, the lowest electoral office in Kenya. From table 4.30 above it is right to conclude that only $2 \%$ of women who offered themselves as candidates for various electoral offices emerged victorious. But the number of successful women contestants appears even to be less than $2 \%$ if the number of women who were elected in Laikipia County is anything to go by.

## CHAPTER FIVE SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Introduction

The study focused on factors influencing community support for women in electoral processes in Laikipia County. The study was guided by three specific objectives; to examine the electoral positions often sought by women in electoral process, socio-cultural factors influencing community support for women in electoral processes and the constraints faced by women in electoral process. The study collected data mainly from primary sources through administration of questionnaires and limited interviews. The study also collected data from secondary sources through literature and documentary reviews. Data collected was organized and analyzed using descriptive statistics, and presented in tables.

### 5.2 Summary of Findings

The following summary of the study findings are based on the objectives of the study, data collection, data analysis and interpretation.

### 5.2.1 Electoral Position and Community Support for Women in Electoral Politics

The most sought electoral position by women was that of women representative, which accounted for about $99.3 \%$ of all the contested offices, with least sought being that of ward representative and parliamentary. Presidency, gubernatorial and senatorial electoral offices were never contested by women in the county. Community's support to women candidates would be most noticeable for those candidates who contested the position of women representative, with that of governor and parliament being other offices women could bank on community's support. No respondent indicated that they could support women candidates seeking for the position of senate. Community was against women contesting for the position of president. Many respondents felt that women had not taken full advantage of the electoral opportunities provided by the new constitutional dispensation as less than $25 \%$ of potential women leaders offered themselves for electoral offices. It is also disheartening that community enlightenment on the electoral rights of women is very low, despite
many of the respondents insisting that such knowledge influenced their support for women candidates. This study attributed this to the lethargy of the government and the political class toward public education on women issues (tables 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8. 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11).

### 5.2.3 Socio-cultural Factors and Community Support for Women in Electoral Politics

Majority of the respondents preferred women who were married to stand for elections, and which was followed by single women, with divorcees receiving the list support. In terms of education, women candidates with university education were the most preferred followed by those with college and secondary education in that order. The most preferred age women candidates for electoral office were 29 and 39 years and 40 and 50 years, with those aged 51 and 51 years and over 61 being the least preferred for electoral office. Women Christians were most considered for electoral offices than their counterparts with Muslim and traditional religion background. Private corporations and civic or political background were the most popular background women candidates were required to have. It was clear to the study that community's support to women in electoral politics were largely influenced the political a candidate was affiliated to (tables 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23 and 4.24).

### 5.2.4 Constraints faced by Women in Electoral Politics

Majority of the respondents considered women candidates' sources of incomes as being important in electoral contests. Business accounted for over $80 \%$ of sources of incomes for women in electoral politics, with formal employment also being considered a vital source of income to some women. It was, however, regrettable that some women who contested in the last general elections did not have a recognizable source of income. Women's sources of incomes were cited by the respondents as a major constraint to their participation in electoral politics since they were largely small scale businesses in nature. Although most of the respondents reported that electoral violence were rare, the study learnt that such violence were a major impediment to women's success in electoral politics owing to the fact that their occurrence coincided with critical electoral activities such as during party primaries. Contrary to public perception that women in electoral politics are never supported by their
families, this study found that women's participation in electoral contests were tacitly approved and overwhelmingly supported by family members. Success rate for women in electoral politics was very low, with a paltry $2 \%$ of the women who contested for an electoral office realizing their political dreams (tables 4.24, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 4.28, 4.29 and 4.30).

### 5.3 Conclusions

Community support for women in electoral politics was largely influenced by the electoral position being contested by women. Community tended to support women contesting for the position of women representative. Community revealed that they could not support women contesting for the position of governor and president. Such decisions were born out of Community's inadequately prepared toward appreciation of the role of women in the new constitutional order. Buttressing this was the notion that position of women representative was the only rightful electoral position for women contestants. But inadequate knowledge about the electoral rights of women appeared to have affected women too, given the fact that less than a quarter of women that community recognized as potential leaders offered themselves for electoral contest. Such low participation of women in electoral politics had a negative bearing on their electoral victory.

Community placed unreasonably huge socio-cultural demands on the women contestants. Community's preference for women candidates to be married and hold university education degree was not only unreasonable but also went against the electoral rights of women. It was ironical for the community to insist that women candidates must hold university education even for electoral positions that required just secondary education. The same community reviles women contesting for positions of president and governor where the levels of education they demand of women are required. Preference for particular political parties in certain regions of the country also tended to work against women candidates. Community was categorical that the political parties' women candidates were affiliated to heavily influenced their support for such women. Yet most of these parties are not only known to be dominated by men but also lack democracy and transparency to levels that women stand very little chance of progressing beyond the party primaries.

Financing of electoral campaigns and electoral violence were most noted impediments to women's success in electoral politics. Most women candidates operated small scale businesses while others were employed in the formal sector. Incomes obtained from these sources could hardly finance effective electoral campaign machinery. Aggravating this is the vastness of some of the electoral areas (senate, governor and women representative), which require candidates even to set up campaign teams in various parts of the county. Women have thus found themselves condemned to smaller electoral areas such as wards and constituencies, but which unfortunately community perceives as male domains. The result of this was alarmingly low number of successful women candidates in electoral contests in Laikipia County.

### 5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study objectives, analysis of data collected from field work, summary and conclusions, this study makes the following general and policy recommendations.

### 5.4.1General Recommendations

A significant proportion of community conceded that they had very little knowledge of the constitutional rights of women to electoral politics. The study, however, found out that most of the respondents' support for women candidates was influenced their knowledge of women's electoral rights, which through self admission was alarmingly inadequate to guide good electoral judgment and choices. This study recommends for urgent education of the community about the constitution generally but the provisions on women specifically so that future electoral decisions by community can be made and informed position.

### 5.4.2 Recommendation for Policy

## Proper Regulations of Political Parties

The study has found that political party affiliation was an important consideration on community's resolve to support women candidates. The study noted during field work through informal discussions by some respondents that most of the political parties never conducted any reputable party primaries and that at times winners were predetermined before and secretly issued with party
nomination certificates. In some cases political issued direct nomination even in instances where more than one candidate presented themselves for electoral contests for the same office. In view of this, the study recommends for the development of comprehensive political regulations that integrates, recognizes and promotes democracy, transparency and accountability in their electoral processes.

## Financing of Electoral Campaigns

The huge potential of women in electoral politics was being undermined by high costs of electoral campaigns. This was compounded by women's inability to raise sufficient financial resources from their regular sources of incomes. Although the current study was unable to get the average cost of a successful electoral campaigns some respondents close to some of the candidates elections disclosed that some candidates even in small electoral areas as wards spent in excess of two million Kenya shillings. The amount was expected to rise even five fold for countywide electoral offices [senate, governor and women representative]. Has costs of electoral campaigns has not only discouraged many women from seeking for electoral offices but has also led to their dismal performance in the electoral contests. There is therefore need for the development policy to regulate financing of electoral campaigns where candidates are restricted to maximum amount they can contribute to their campaign kitty and that more emphasis is placed collective rather than individual fundraising.

### 5.4.3 Areas for Further Research

This study found that community was vehemently opposed to women contesting for the office of governor, yet they had no problems with them contesting other electoral offices. It would be of much value to establish why the community do not entrust women the office of president and governor. This study therefore recommends for further study on community's perceived undesirability of women in the office of president and governor.

This study also found that women candidates were overwhelmingly supported by their families in electoral contests. However, such support failed to translate into electoral success for women. But it is also important to recognize that some women were victorious in their electoral contests. It might
be necessary to establish why many women candidates failed to impress in electoral contests despite such a seemingly huge support from family members.

This study established that less than $25 \%$ of the potential women leaders offered to stand for electoral contests in Laikipia County. This number is indeed very low given the enhanced rights of women to electoral processes in the new constitution and other legal frameworks. In view of this, this study recommends for further study to be done factors influencing women's participation in electoral processes.

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## APPENDICES

Appendix I: Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Table for Determining Sample Size

| N-n | N-n | N-n | $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{n}$ | $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{n}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $10-10$ | $100-80$ | $280-162$ | $800-260$ | $2800-338$ |
| $15-14$ | $110-86$ | $290-165$ | $850-265$ | $3000-341$ |
| $20-19$ | $120-92$ | $300-169$ | $900-269$ | $3500-346$ |
| $25-24$ | $130-97$ | $320-175$ | $950-274$ | $4000-351$ |
| $30-28$ | $140-103$ | $340-181$ | $1000-278$ | $4500-354$ |
| $35-32$ | $150-108$ | $360-186$ | $1100-285$ | $5000-357$ |
| $40-36$ | $160-113$ | $380-191$ | $1200-291$ | $6000-361$ |
| $45-40$ | $170-118$ | $400-196$ | $1300-297$ | $7000-364$ |
| $50-44$ | $180-123$ | $420-201$ | $1400-302$ | $8000-367$ |
| $55-48$ | $190-127$ | $440-205$ | $1500-306$ | $9000-368$ |
| $60-52$ | $200-132$ | $460-210$ | $1600-310$ | $10000-370$ |
| $65-56$ | $210-136$ | $480-241$ | $1700-313$ | $15000-375$ |
| $70-59$ | $220-140$ | $500-217$ | $1800-317$ | $20000-377$ |
| $75-63$ | $230-144$ | $550-226$ | $1900-320$ | $30000-379$ |
| $80-66$ | $240-148$ | $600-234$ | $2000-322$ | $40000-380$ |
| $85-70$ | $250-152$ | $650-242$ | $2200-327$ | $50000-381$ |
| $90-73$ | $260-155$ | $700-248$ | $2400-331$ | $75000-382$ |
| $95-76$ | $270-159$ | $750-254$ | $2600-335$ | $1000000-384$ |

# Appendix II: Letter of Transmittal 

Daniel Wangenye

P.O Box 2251-20300

Nyahururu, Kenya
County Commissioner,
Laikipia County
P.O Box 233

Nanyuki

## Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Research Study
I am a student of the University of Nairobi, pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Project Planning and Management. Currently I am in the process of undertaking research on the Factors Influencing Community Support for Women Political Leadership in Laikipia County, Kenya.

The study will involve collecting data from the community in Igwamiti, Thingithu and Mukogondo West County Assembly Wards in Laikipia West, Laikipia East and Laikipia North Constituencies Respectively. The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to request your office to grant me permission to carry out the study in the named County Assembly Wards.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel N. Wangenye
L50/74466/2012

## APPENDIX III <br> QUESTIONAIRE

This questionnaire is designed to obtain information on factors influencing community support to women in electoral politics in Laikipia County, Kenya. Respondents are requested to answer questions as honest and truthful as possible. The results of this survey will be completely confidential and no identifying data will be collected. The information given will be used for purposes of this study only.

## Part A: Profile of Respondents

1. State your gender
$\square$ Male
Female
2. State your highest level of formal education
$\square$ No formal education
$\square \quad$ Primary
$\square \quad$ Secondary
3. Which of the following best describes your age
$\square \quad 18-28$ Yrs
40-50 Yrs

College
$\square \quad$ 29-39 Yrs - 51-61Yrs
4. Mention your religion
$\square$ Christianity Islamic
$\square$ Traditional Religion
$\square$ Others.
State. $\qquad$

## Electoral Position and Community Support

5. Which of these positions have been most sought by women candidates in the last general election?
$\square \quad$ Ward Representative
$\square$ Parliamentary
$\square$ Senate
$\square$ Governor

## President

Women Representative
6. Which of these positions would you support a woman candidate most if they seek your support?
$\square$ Ward Representative
$\square$ Governor
$\square$ Parliamentary
President
$\square$ Senate
$\square$ Women Representative
7. Which of these positions would you not at all prefer a woman candidate to hold?
$\square$ Ward Representative
Governor
$\square$ Parliamentary
$\square$ President
$\square$ Senate
$\square$ Women Representative
8. What percentage of women candidates in the last general election would you say had stood for elective position in the previous elections?

| $\square$ | $100 \%$ | $\square$ | $50 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Less |  |  |  |
| $\square$ | $75 \%$ | $\square$ | $25 \%$ | | than |
| :--- |

9. Would you agree that a candidate's previous attempts in electoral politics influence your support?
$\square \quad$ Strongly Agree
Neutral
$\square$ Agree
$\square$ Disagree
$\square$ Strongly Disagree
10. Which of the following avenues have been used to enlighten the community about the constitutional and legal provisions of women in elective offices?
$\square$ The government
Religious organizations
$\square$ Community Groups
Political Leaders
$\square$ NGOs
$\square$ Others. State.
11. To what extent would you agree that women have fully exploited their rights under the constitution, laws and international conventions on elective politics?Strongly Agree
Neutral
$\square$ Agree
$\square$ Disagree

## Strongly Disagree

12. Which of the following best describes your knowledge of the constitutional and legal provisions on women and elective offices?
$\square$ Very adequate
Neutral
$\square$ Adequate
Least adequate
$\square$ Not adequate
13. To what extent has your knowledge of the constitutional and legal provisions on women and elective office influence your support for women candidates?
$\square$ Great extant
NeutralExtent
Least extentNo extent

## Socio-Cultural Factors and Community Support

14. To what extent would a woman candidate's marital status influence your supportGreat extantNeutralExtent
Least extentNo extent
15. Which of the following candidate's marital status would you prefer most to hold an elective office?
$\square$ Single
$\square$ Married
$\square$ Others. Status $\qquad$
16. Which of the following candidate's marital status would you not prefer at all to hold an elective office?
$\square$ Single
Divorced
Widow
Separated

Married
Divorced
$\square$ Others. Status $\qquad$
17. To what extent would candidate's level of education influence your support
$\square$ Great extant
$\square$ Extent
Neutral
$\square$ No extent
18. Which level of education will you prefer candidate's for electoral office to have?
$\square$ Primary
College
$\square$ Secondary
$\square$ University
19. Would you agree that a candidate's age is an important consideration in elective office?
$\square$ Strongly Agree
$\square$ Neutral
$\square$ Agree
$\square$ Disagree
$\square$ Strongly Disagree
20. To what extent would a candidate's previous work experience influence your support?
$\square$ Great extantNeutralExtent Least extent
$\square$ No extent
21. Which of the following work background would prefer a candidate for elective office to have?

## Civil Service

$\square$ Non Governmental Organizations
$\square$ Private corporations
$\square$ Academic/teaching
$\square$ Civic/political background
$\square$ Others. State $\qquad$
22. Which of the following age brackets would you prefer a candidate for elective office to belong to?
$\square \quad 18-28$ Yrs
40-50 Yrs
Over 61 Yrs
$\square \quad 29-39 \mathrm{Yrs}$
51-61Yrs
23. Would you agree that a candidate's religious affiliation be an important consideration in elective office?
$\square$ Strongly agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
$\square$ Strongly Disagree
24. Which of the following religious faith would you prefer a candidate to be affiliated to?
$\square$ Christianity
IslamicTraditional Religion
$\square$ Others. State
25. How important would say party affiliation is an important consideration in electoral politics?
$\square$ Very important
$\square$ Important
$\square$ Not important
26. To what extent would a party a women candidate affiliated to influence your support?
$\square$ Great extant
Neutral
$\square$ No extent
$\square$ Extent
Least extent

## Constraints Faced By Women in Electoral Politics

27. How important do you think a woman's source of income to her electoral success?
$\square$ Very important
$\square$ Neutral
$\square$ Important
$\square$ Least importantNot important
28. State the source of income of most women candidate's in the last elections?Formal employment
Farming
$\square$ Casual employment
Business
$\square$ Unemployed
29. Do you agree that some women did succeed in the electoral politics because of their source of income?
$\square$ Strongly agree
Neutral
$\square$ Agree
DisagreeStrongly Disagree
30. Would you agree that the cost of campaigns for electoral offices has undermined women in electoral campaigns?
$\square$ Strongly agree
$\square$ Neutral
Agree
Disagree
$\square$ Strongly disagree
31. How would you describe security situation in your area during electoral campaigns?
Very high
Neutral
$\square$ High
Low
very low
32. How often was violence experienced during electoral campaigns?Very often
Rarely
$\square$ Often . Not at allOccasionally
33. Would you agree that electoral violence during campaigns undermined women's success in electoral politics?
$\square$ Strongly agree
Neutral
Agree
Disagree
$\square$ Strongly disagree
34. How important is the family support for women candidates in electoral politics?
$\square$ Very important
$\square$ NeutralImportant
Least importantNot important
35. Which of the following describes the sufficiency/insufficiency of support women candidates receive from their families?Very sufficient
Neutral
$\square$ Sufficient
$\square$ Very insufficient
36. How supportive would say men have been to women candidates in electoral politics?

Very supportive
Supportive

Neutral
Least supportive
$\square$ Not supportive
37. How supportive would say women have been to women candidates in electoral politics?Very supportive
$\square$ Least supportiveSupportiveNot supportiveNeutral
38. Which of the following best describes the level of success women candidates have had in electoral politics in Laikipia CountyVery highHighNeutralLowvery low

Once again, thank you very much for your participation in this survey.

Appendix V: Time Schedule 2013

|  | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | Aug | Sep | Oct |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Preparing <br> Seminar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proposal Writing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proposal Defense |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data Collection |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| and Analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Project Report |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Writing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Depense of Final |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Report |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Appendix VI: Research Budget

| ITEM | $\begin{gathered} \text { UNIT } \\ \text { MEASURE } \end{gathered}$ | QUANTITY | $\begin{gathered} \text { COST/UNIT } \\ \text { ( Ksh.) } \end{gathered}$ | TOTAL (Ksh.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Writing Paper | Ream | 1 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Photocopy |  |  |  |  |
| Research proposal | Pgs | 160 | 3.00 | 480.00 |
| Project report | Pgs | 260 | 3.00 | 780.00 |
| Questionnaire | Pgs | 200 | 3.00 | 600.00 |
| Interview Schedules | Pgs | 50 | 3.00 | 150.00 |
| Printing |  |  |  | - |
| Research proposal | Pgs | 40 | 15.00 | 600.00 |
| Project report | Pgs | 65 | 15.00 | 975.00 |
| Questionnaire | Pgs | 5 | 15.00 | 75.00 |
| Interview Schedules | Pgs | 5 | 15.00 | 75.00 |
| Typing |  |  |  | - |
| Research proposal | Pgs | 40 | 30.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Project Report | Pgs | 65 | 30.00 | 1,950.00 |
| Writing Pens | Pgs | 5 | 25.00 | 125.00 |
| Telephone Costs | Pgs |  |  | 2,000.00 |
| Binding |  |  |  |  |
| Research proposal | Pcs | 7 | 80.00 | 560.00 |
| Project Report | Pcs | 5 | 300.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Traveling | - | - | - | 2,000.00 |
| Allowances |  |  |  |  |
| Research assistants | man-days | 10 | 500.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Data analysis |  |  |  | 30,000 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | 1,000.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  | 49,470.00 |


[^0]:    A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OFTHE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

