

Factors influencing implementation of LATF infrastructure projects in Kenya: the case of selected projects in Mombasa County

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Abstract:

Infrastructure projects contribute towards the socioeconomic development of a country and individuals due to improved standard of living when provided. Local authorities in Kenya have been implementing infrastructural projects using Local Authorities Transfer Fund(LATF) from the central government over the years and several projects have been implemented since inception of the fund. Nevertheless, the implementation of these projects has been experiencing various challenges countrywide leading to having abandoned projects, incomplete projects and unutilized completed projects all signs of poor project planning and implementation. The purpose of the study was to determine the factors that influence the implementation of LATF infrastructure projects in Mombasa County to help draw lessons that can help to develop knowledge that can assist in the improvement in implementation. A survey of literature indicates that at lower government implementation levels, implementation of infrastructural projects experience a number of challenges including a lack of adequate technical capacity during implementation, low community participation in projects identification and implementation, political influence in prioritization of projects, inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and delayed payments to contractors. The study sought to determine how technical capacity, community participation, political influence, monitoring and evaluation and delayed payments influence the implementation of LATF infrastructure projects. This study employed descriptive survey design using questionnaires which are a quick way of obtaining information cost effectively within a short period of time. Test and retest method was used to promote reliability while validity was promoted through working with experienced professionals in infrastructure implementation and my supervisors. The data was analyzed and presented in tables and figures. The findings indicated that there are challenges in implementation of these projects. Delayed Payments is the greatest factor influencing implementation followed by Political influence, Technical capacity, community participation and finally monitoring and evaluation system in that order. Recommendations for implementation improvement among them improved financial management and further legislation to attract sanctions for failure to implement these projects as per requirements has been made.