

**FACTORS INFLUENCING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE  
COUNTY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS.**

**A CASE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU**

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## DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been submitted for an award of a degree in any other University.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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This research project has been submitted to my approval as the University Supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my dear wife Susan and my sons Victor and Mark Leon for your endurance and patience throughout my study.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

CIDP	County Integrated Development Plans
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
IDP	Integrated Development Plans
KHRC	Kenya Human Right Commission
NSAs	Non-State Actors
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme



## ABSTRACT

Public participation is a principle that has been given prominence in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Participation should imbue all public affairs and be promoted by both Non-State Actors and the State acting in public interest. The Constitution sets key requirements for the legislature at both levels of government to provide frameworks for public participation in governance processes. This emphasis for citizen participation underscores the fact that the election of representatives does not negate the need for people to continuously be involved in governance processes. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors that influence public participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process in County Government of Meru. The study was guided by the following objectives: to assess whether community awareness influence their public participation in the county integrated development planning process, to examine whether the demographic factors influence public participation in the integrated development planning process, to access whether behavioral factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process and to find out whether economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process. The target population of the study included the County Government of Meru officials who include 45 ward administrators, five officials from the Public service and Public Administration department, ten local opinion leaders from each of the nine sub counties selected randomly and the ten Meru county Assembly committee that was involved in the Public Participation in the FY2013/2014 and FY2014/2015 and the public. The target population is 160 participants and the sample size is 113. The study established that the level of community awareness determines the level public participation in county integrated development planning process. The study also revealed that behavioral factors like the quality of policies guiding citizens participation process through aspects such as public attitude toward local government, allocation of resources, level of coordination and engagement and the perceived community value in the participation process all determines the level public participation in county integrated development planning process. Further the study noted that economic factors like the perceived economic benefits to from the county development project, estimated time for revenue generation, level of individual income, and awareness on the other economic generating opportunities all determines the level public participation in county integrated development planning process. From the findings, it was concluded that behavioral factors had the greatest influence on Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process followed by demographic factors, then economic factors while the level of community awareness had the least effect. The study recommends initiation of strong measures that promote public awareness in integrated development planning, CIDP program should be tailored to encompass the dynamic nature in demographic characteristics of citizens. CIDP program should endeavor to initiate projects that are of economic benefit to the local communities and that the county government needs to improve on public relation, reporting as well as policy communication as this was found to be positively related to public participation levels in CIDP.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Democratic governance will be meaningless if governments do not ensure an effective and fully informed public participation. Bastidas (2004) Governments need to better take into account public participation not only to effectively engage the general public, but also to establish a more mutually beneficial government and citizen relationship.

The opportunity to take part in a political process is such a fundamental tenet of any democratic society. Aulich (2009) Kanyinga (2014) argues that public participation is an important component of democracy because ‘rule by the people’ is the underlying and founding principle of any democracy. Public participation is vital to the processes of community design, planning, and development.

Community involvement and citizen participation in planning may be more time- and resource-intensive than wholly “top-down” planning, but they offer benefits in that they ensure and strengthen democracy, increases accountability, improves process quality, manages social conflicts, safeguards against externalities, enhances process legitimacy and protects business interests. Proactive planning that incorporates meaningful public involvement increases the likelihood of a project’s success.

Successful public participation also often requires specialized group process techniques, such as the use of three-dimensional visuals and participatory activities. As the old proverb says, *“Tell me I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand.”*

Tensions exist between views of participation as an essential element of successful democracy and participation as a means for achieving something else, be it a specific decision outcome with regard to resource sharing and utilization, a desire for more informed, accountable or legitimate decision making process, or the desire to give communities a stronger say in how they are being governed or contributing to a more educated and engaged public (Abelson & Eyles, 2004).

All people, particularly young, marginalized and vulnerable groups, have a right to express their views on decisions directly affecting their lives (OECD, 2001). This fundamental right can only be honored if Government-citizen connections are further strengthened (Lukensmeyer, 2009). Lammers (1988) further asserts that Participation is not an end in itself; as a procedural right, it represents the means through which citizens may take part in and influence processes, decisions and activities

Meaningful citizen participation in governance is a key ingredient for public reforms that were instituted by the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010. Article 1 (1) of the Constitution vests all sovereign power to the people of Kenya. This power can be expressed through direct participation or indirectly through elected representatives. In addition, various pieces of legislations anchoring devolution highlight the principles of citizen participation. Together, these constitutional and legislative provisions avail various platforms for citizen participation in devolved governance. Citizen participation is one of the national values and is also one of the principles of public service as articulated in the Constitution in Articles 10 (2,a) and Article 232 (1).

The 1994 democratic elections in South Africa led to a new form of governance that emphasizes public participation in public policy making in all spheres of government. According to the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) (2002) this new form of governance is also stipulated in the South African Constitution (1996) that mandates that all public policy processes should encompass democratic participation of the people. For local government, this implied new approaches to development planning that led to the introduction of the Integrated Development Plans in 1996. Through the Integrated Development Planning process, the people are given an opportunity to identify and prioritize their needs, identify available resources from their communities, and to participate during the development, implementation and review of the Integrated Development Plans.

According to the Municipal Systems Act (2000) and the Municipal Structures Act (1998) all the municipalities should develop an Integrated Development Plan in consultation with local people, that is, there should be full and active participation of the people in each ward in integrated development planning process. Integrated development planning is aimed at addressing poor planning of the past and to ensure sustainable rural development. It is therefore a requirement for and the responsibility of each municipality to ensure that there is adequate and effective participation of the local residents in each ward. The two pieces of legislation stipulate that people participation forums and community based planning should form an integral part of the Integrated Development Planning process.

According to legislation, municipalities in South Africa should have Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and they are mandated to ensure that the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process includes high levels and quality of citizen participation in their respective localities. Despite this legislative requirement, most rural communities “do not have the knowledge and information of the options and the implications of the options they can use to participate meaningfully in local government affairs” (Brynard, 1996: 42) because they were left underdeveloped and under-serviced by the apartheid regime.

Resources to empower rural communities are in most cases inadequate. It is therefore a challenge for local government to capacitate the people in rural communities to participate effectively in the IDP process in their own localities. DPLG (2002) recognizes and emphasizes the importance of empowering the people to participate meaningfully in the IDP process. The researcher therefore sees it useful to consider and investigate capacity-building programmes employed by local authorities to strengthen the quality and level of participation of rural communities in the IDP process.

Public participation is a principle that has been given prominence in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The people’s sovereign power can be expressed through direct participation or indirectly through elected representatives. Article 10 (2) of the Constitution provides that public participation is a national value and principle of governance. The principle of public participation is echoed across the Constitution. The public is expected to participate and be involved in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees<sup>2</sup>. One of the objects of devolution is to give powers of self-governance to the

people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them. Participation should imbue all public affairs and be promoted by both State and Non-State Actors (NSAs) acting in public interest. The Constitution particularly sets key requirement for Parliament and the County Assemblies to provide frameworks for public participation in legislative processes. This emphasis for the people's representatives to ensure public participation underscores the fact that the election of representatives does not negate the need for people to continuously be involved in governance processes. This could be established through administrative and/or legislative frameworks/guidelines. Parliament and County Assemblies are required to enact legislation on participation and also develop procedural guidelines for people to exercise this right.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Public participation is a principle that has been given prominence in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Participation should imbue all public affairs and be promoted by both Non-State Actors and the State acting in public interest. The Constitution sets key requirements for the legislature at both levels of government to provide frameworks for public participation in governance processes. This emphasis for citizen participation underscores the fact that the election of representatives does not negate the need for people to continuously be involved in governance processes.

Lack of effective public participation in county government affairs and in the CIDP process is a common challenge in many counties. The problem is that rural communities

often low literacy levels and lack the knowledge and understanding of county government issues, and understanding of benefits of their participation to their lives.

Despite the County Government of Meru making intensive adverts in dailies and local stations about dates and venues of various public participation meetings, there has always been a low turnout by the residents in the forums. For example in the FY 2013/2014 and FY 2014/2015 public participations recorded very low turnout. The table below is in the County Assemblies report on the turnout.

**Table 1.2.1**

<b>Sub County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>FY 2013/14 Attendance</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>FY 2014/15 Attendance</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Imenti South</b>	179,609	99	81	18	46	32	14
<b>Imenti Central</b>	141,768	34	21	13	23	19	04
<b>Imenti North</b>	149144	173	121	52	128	94	27
<b>Buuri</b>	109,803	58	30	18	40	24	16
<b>Tigania East</b>	157,246	49	40	09	58	43	15
<b>Tigania West</b>	135,980	78	61	17	28	19	09
<b>Igembe Central</b>	182,641	61	49	12	47	37	10
<b>Igembe South</b>	145,301	91	80	11	62	45	17
<b>Igembe North</b>	154,814	70	58	12	38	30	08

*Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2010.2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census.Nairobi.*

*Meru County Assembly Public Participation report FY2013/2014*

*Meru County Assembly Public Participation report FY2014/2015*

From the above table it is evident that the attendance of public participation meetings carried out in the two years was way below average compared to the population of each Sub County. In all the meetings women participants attendance was very minimal with the men taking the centre stage. This requires attention in order for the public to be more involved effectively. The study will therefore seek to know if the community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors influence Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process.

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

The purpose of this study was to investigate factors influencing Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process.

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

The objectives of this study were:

1. To assess whether community awareness about public participation influence public participation in county integrated development planning process.
2. To examine whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in integrated development planning process.
3. To access whether behavioral factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process.



4. To find out whether economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following questions:

1. How does community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process?
2. Do demographic factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process?
3. Do behavioral factors influence public participation in the county integrated development planning process?
4. Do economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process?

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

The findings of this study will benefit various stake holders. The County Government of Meru and Kenya at large will be enlightened on areas that need more resources, attention and effort. It will equip the various governments with the specific information on areas that need improvement and hence guide their actions. The findings expose the importance of community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral and economic factors in Public Participation during the County Integrated Development Planning Process. This study would contribute to the existing body of knowledge on public participation in the county integrated development planning process as well as form a basis for further

studies in future. This being the case, the government resources (input) will ensure effective public participation in county development planning process.

### **1.7 Limitations of the Study**

The sampling frame of the study only covered Meru County thus limited to generalization of the finding. The researcher was faced with socio economic and environmental challenges like bad weather, distance and lack of receptiveness from the respondents because they could be wary of divulging their personal information. This was avoided by visiting the respondents and creating a rapport and also explained them the purpose of the exercise. The study used descriptive survey design which tends to be unpopular for studies that are too detailed to be fully explained by description. The researcher has to have a clear perception of what the study intends to cover, failure to which the results may lead to inappropriate data collection. The respondents in descriptive survey design tend not to be truthful and give inappropriate answers and the assumption is that the respondents are knowledgeable and can give answers that answer the research questions.

### **1.8 Delimitations of the Study**

The study covered all the sub county headquarters some being in urban and others rural areas. This was purposely done to ensure that the study cut across both urban and rural areas so that findings were generalized to both categories.

## **1.9 Assumptions of the Study**

The basic assumption of the study was that the independent variables namely community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors influence public participation in the County Integrated Development Planning process, the dependent variable. The study assumed that respondents give correct and valid information that assisted in getting valid data. It was also be assumed that the selected sample represents the whole population.

## **1.10 Definitions of Significant Terms**

**Public Participation** - IAP2 (2002) defines public participation as “the process by which an organization consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations and government entities before development.

It is an open, accountable process through which individuals and groups within selected making a decision”. In essence, participation gives “voice” to the voiceless and “agency” to attend to the needs of the marginalized, in this way the public’s needs come first through positive communities can exchange views and influence decision making.

**Behavioral Factors** - These are overt actions and underlying psychological processes of an individual that influence their participation in budget formulation processes. They include trust and attitude (Mizrahi 2009).

**County Integrated Development Plan** - Is a primary document which outlines the consensus on programmes and projects that the County Government is committed to implementing?

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

The proposal is organized into three chapters. Chapter one contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance of the study, limitations, delimitations, basic assumptions of the study and the organization of the study.

Chapter two deals with literature review derived from relevant studies carried out on the factors that influence public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process which are community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors.

Chapter three outlines the research methodology applied in the study and included research design, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, sample size, sampling techniques, research instruments, questionnaires, validity of the instruments, reliability of the instruments, and finally piloting of the research instrument.

Chapter four presents analysis and findings of the study as set out in the research methodology. The study closes with chapter five which presents the discussion, conclusion, and recommendations for action and further research.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter examines previous literature that has been written on the various factors influencing public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process. The factors are based on the research questions highlighted in chapter one. These include: Community awareness, social cultural factors, economic factors and education.

#### **2.2 Overview of Public Participation in Kenya**

Meaningful citizen participation in governance is a key ingredient for public reforms that were instituted by the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010. Article 1 (1) of the Constitution vests all sovereign power to the people of Kenya. This power can be expressed through direct participation or indirectly through elected representatives. In addition, various pieces of legislations anchoring devolution highlight the principles of citizen participation. Together, these constitutional and legislative provisions avail various platforms for citizen participation in devolved governance. Citizen participation is one of the national values and is also one of the principles of public service as articulated in the Constitution in Articles 10 (2,a) and Article 232 (1).

Public participation is a principle that has been given prominence in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The people's sovereign power can be expressed through direct participation or indirectly through elected representatives. Article 10 (2) of the Constitution provides

that public participation is a national value and principle of governance. The principle of public participation is echoed across the Constitution.

The public is expected to participate and be involved in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees. One of the objects of devolution is to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them.

The County Government Act, 2012 at the preamble articulates what is meant by *the public* stating that, when used in relation to public participation it means:

- (a) The residents of a particular county;
- (b) The rate payers of a particular city or municipality;
- (c) Any resident civic organization or non-governmental, private sector or labour organization with an interest in the governance of a particular county, city or municipality; and (d) non-resident persons who because of their temporary presence in a particular county, city or municipality make use of services or facilities provided by the county, city or municipality.

The New Constitution lays the basis for the development of a policy framework on citizen participation. Key provisions pertaining to this are:

- a) Article 1 (4), that Sovereign power of the people is exercised at the (a) National level and (b) the county level.

b) Article 6 (2), the governments at the national and county levels are distinct and inter-dependent and shall conduct their mutual relations on the basis of consultation and cooperation.

c) Article 174, the objects of devolution are to (c) give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them (d) recognize the rights of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development.

d) Article 184 (1), which states that National Legislation shall provide for the governance and management of urban areas and cities and shall in particular (c) provide for participation by residents in the governance of urban areas and cities.

e) Article 196 (1), which states that a county assembly shall conduct its business in an open manner and hold its sittings and those of committees in public, and facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the assembly and its committees.

f) Article 232 (1) on the values and principles of public service which include: (d) involvement of the people in the process of policy making and: (e) accountability for administrative acts and (f) transparency and provision to the public of timely and accurate information.

g) Fourth Schedule Part 2 (14) which stipulates that the functions and powers of the county are to ensure and coordinate the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level. Counties are also to assist communities to develop the

administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level.

### **2.3 Community Awareness and Public Participation.**

The constitution of Kenya says that citizens have the right to participate at each level of public participation. In conformity, World Bank (2002) notes that citizens' awareness of their rights, roles and responsibilities is a necessary element for constructive citizen participation.

The concept of community awareness and participation emerged in the early 1970s from the community movement in developing countries and has since become important basis for project success (Thwala, 2010). Community awareness And participation are particularly necessary due to the failure of the top-down approaches to address challenges such as high poverty levels and environmental degradation among others. Consequently, emphasis shifted from imported technical professional solutions to community based development, recognizing local knowledge and skillsof the people living in poverty and making effort to engage them in participatory programmes (Warburton, 2000; Cooke & Kothari, 2001).

As noted by the World Bank (2004), community awareness and participation process through which stakeholders gain influence and control over development initiatives, decisions and resources affecting their lives and livelihoods. To many developing governments, community awareness and participation are valuable in improving community welfare, training people in local administration and extending government control through self-initiatives (McCommon, 1993).



Community participation brings forth several advantages to communities in terms of empowerment, capacity building, improving project effectiveness and efficiency; project cost sharing and enhancing ownership (Thwala, 2010). The extent of participation varies from information sharing, consultation, decision making and initiation of action. The concept is successful in situations where community members and community based organizations take up active role and responsibilities than where development actors merely target them by baseline surveys and consensus-building meetings (Thwala, 2001; 2010). Community based organizations serve as channels for information flow to communities to enable them make informed decisions and choices (Thwala, 2009).

Omolo, (2010) argues that for devolution to be successful citizens must be politically conscious, they must not only be aware of their rights and responsibilities but also know the channels via which they can exercise them.

For development initiatives to gain ground, beneficiaries must be aware of their rights, roles and responsibilities (Muhammad, 2010). Devolution can only be successful if the citizens are politically conscious; they must not only be aware of their rights and responsibilities but the channels via which they can exercise them (Omolo, 2010). In some jurisdictions, the right to public participation is enshrined by law. The right to public participation is conceived as a human right or as manifestation of the right to freedom of association. Countries such as the US, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, have public participation and freedom of information provisions in their legal systems since the Middle Ages to establish how citizens' awareness of public participation as a right affects their involvement in the integrated development planning process.

Capacity building programmes for improving participation of rural communities in the CIDP process are often lacking and not effective to create an environment where the people and their governments have meaningful engagements on issues that affect them. They are powerless and do not know how they can empower themselves to influence decisions in the CIDP process. These factors coupled with poor access to information about the CIDP process cause people staying in the rural areas not to participate effectively in the process.

There's been little or no training, skills development and provision of appropriate information have been done to enable the public to participate effectively and to engage in meaningful discussions on CIDP related issues in their own governments.

Community change processes affect residents, first and foremost; they should be able to help shape such changes. Private sector businesses rely on multi-billion-dollar market studies to ascertain consumer desires, but local governments typically solicit public participation only through public hearings, of which many residents are often unaware.

## **2.4 Demographic Factors that influence Public Participation.**

### **2.4.1 Age and Public Participation**

This section classifies age into two categories namely Youth and Non Youth. Youth can play a very important role in any development programs. They are indeed invaluable resources to any nation, because their fresh motivation, capabilities, and innovativeness can act as a catalyst for achieving excellence goals. Opportunities to the youth to engage in governance and participate in political decision making processes depend largely on the political, socio economic and cultural contexts where social norms in many parts of

the world result in multiple forms of discrimination against the youth (UNDP and IPU 2012). There is strong evidence that participation of young people in formal, institutional political processes is relatively low when compared to older citizen across the globe. This challenges the representativeness of the political system and leads to disenfranchisement of young people (UNDP 2012) Enhancing Youth political participation throughout the Electoral cycle.

In a survey conducted by UN IAN YD (2012) in 186 countries, it was highlighted that the main challenge for youth were limited opportunities for effective participation in decision making processes. With limited opportunities and exposure to meaningfully participate in inclusive decision making processes, young men and women feel excluded and marginalised in their societies and communities. The need for participatory structures and greater trust between youth and institutions were also stressed.

#### **2.4.2 Gender and Public Participation**

Concepts of 'participation' and 'gender' have been a part of emancipatory discourse and practices for the last decade. Advocates of these concepts have claimed that they allow the representation of the most marginalized groups - women and the poor (Akerkar, 2001).

The study of historical, philosophical, political texts show that "women have been kept outside the public domain of politics as most of the political thinkers and philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, John Lock, Thomas Hobbes and Hegel considered women fit only for domestic roles in the private sphere and maintained that there was no

place for women in politics because of their suitability in caring roles as mothers and wives" (Bari, 2005).

The low patronage of women in politics and public decision-making is a global phenomenon. Throughout history, men have monopolized and dominated strategic decision making positions. Despite the achievement of universal suffrage, increased education and incomes for women, and efforts to increase participation of women in public life, women everywhere remain marginalized and under-represented in those areas of public life where important decisions and policies are made. (ADRRRI)

Doorpersad (2014) concludes that in order to emancipate women and ensure that they fully participate in democratization processes that it is vital to review and revise existing constitutional, political, legislative and regulatory frameworks, including electoral systems, to remove provisions that hinder women's equal participation in the decision-making processes. Studies undertaken in Africa by Baah - Ennumh, *et al*, Karpowitz *et al* (2012) Zaman (2007) Agbalajobi (2010), Ihmeje (2013) and Omodia *et al* (2013) argues that women participation in governance in Africa face a myriad challenges including religious and cultural beliefs, lack of economic empowerment, lack of effective means of implementing affirmative action, men dominance of political power, Relatively low education levels of women, multiple roles of women in the family setup , women attitude to the process of governance, lack of confidence on the part of women and demanding nature of the work at the local assembly level. Ihemeje (2013) further argue that marginalization of women in local governance is nothing but an elongation of male dominance in virtually all political affairs. As such, historical fact of this nature is

strongly associated with the attitudinal views which had often impede the chances of women to having more political representatives at the various local government.

According to Mukhopadhyay (2005), democratic decentralization is critical for women not only because of the proximity of local government to their lives but because- they are often excluded from government decision-making at the national level. Contrary to views that local government is the level that women can easily break into and thus serve as springboard to national politics, the hierarchical and embedded nature of local government in local social structures make it difficult for women to break in as independent political actors. While supporting this position, Goetz (2002) argues that where women are given the opportunity to participate in local government, the terms of their inclusion determine the sustainability of their representation. Zaman (2007) on her part argue that in order to involve women in local bodies and for their active participation in local and national decisions, they have to be mobilized and organized at various levels through the equal representation of gender in all parts of it. For this women must also learn how to make the local government more responsive and accountable to them.

#### **2.4.3 Education and Public Participation**

According to Pharr & Putnam (2000), and Edwards (2005), demands for increased public participation in the affairs of government is generally influenced by a better educated, more articulate and more demanding citizenry, many of whom are the ones who express a declining level of trust in their politicians and the political institutions. This belief is usually expressed in demands for more engagement of citizens with meaningful

exchanges with government beyond the traditional democratic processes of three or four year elections cycles.

According to John, (2009), education level of the citizenry has a significant correlation in the level of public participation. Education often enhances citizen's awareness of governance programs and how to engage the governance system (Ahmad, *et al* 2005). Bratton.*et al*, conducted a research in six Sub-Saharan countries to determine whether education levels has a correlation with the level of public participation in decentralized units. In their findings, the more a community and its citizenry became educated, the more they engaged in public participation duties like budget formulation. Similarly, Joshi and Houtzager (2012), contends that education has a high positive correlation with publics engagement in local Governance.

Equally, Mwenda (2010) links levels of education to the public's ability to express their interests in self-determining governance of the people and by the people, but argues that lack of sufficient education -particularly in marginalized communities, hampers information dissemination, hence, low levels of participation. Oyugi and Kibua (2008) similarly argue that public citizens who sit on development and planning board for county governments on volunteer basis are all educated. Joshi and Houtzager (2012) significantly correlate education, information, and public participation. Further, they argues that the ability to coherently articulate policy issues within the budgetary planning forums favor those with higher levels of education. Pasek.*et al* (2008) argues that level of

education elevates citizens ability to participate in public functions that require a level of technical skills and ability. They contend that the reason the public doesn't have the desire to participate in forums like budget participation is that they feel inadequately informed or educated to be of value. Finkel, *et al*,(2012), conducted a research in South Africa and Dominican Republic to determine how engaged the public was on issues of devolved governance and budgetary processes. In their findings, education, the ability to articulate petitions, understand technical budgetary language enabled citizens to engage more actively and effectively not only in the budgetary formulation, but in other civic duties. Pasek.*et al*, (2008), agrees with Finkel. *et al*, (2012) findings, and further argues that positive education levels raises the public's stakes, awareness, and desire to desire the kind of future that want through governance processes like public formulation.

Higher levels of education are critical in entrenching democratic principles of public involvement in governed (KHRC. 2010). Higher public involvement triggers quest for efficiency and effectiveness in utilization of public resources. According to John, (2009) Lower levels of education in devolved units negatively correlate with public participation. KHRC (2010) report on public participation highlights the reality of education in civic process that informs public participation. The report findings argue that citizens without education, lacks ability to assimilate information, therefore, can rarely formulate interests in civic duties like budget formulation. Mboga (2009) draws the correlation to the impact levels of education have in public participation in Kenya. He argues that education expands the ability of the public to appropriate desires, interests, and has their voice heard in logical concise and organized process like budget formulations.

Mwenda (2010) however argues that merely seating in budgetary forums, by those who are educated does not constituted participation. Oyugi and Kibua, (2008) contends that in as much as education elevated understanding, and versatile opportunities to engage in budgetary formulation, the actual is not easily articulated when you divorce self-interest form actual desire to engage in public participation. In the case of participation by representation in budget formulation, the citizenry of a constituency usually engage persons with educational and engaging skills to effectively represent their views (Michels, 2012). Most people who attend public forums on county development budgetary consist largely of the educated with self-aggrandizing interest, instead of that of the public Mboga (2009). According to Michels (2012), devolution and democratization is supposed to enhance the concept of self-governance through actual participation in decision making on how the to be governed. Joshi and Houtzager, (2012), argues that to enhance public participation in budgetary formulation, then each devolved unit should consider empowering the citizenry through adequate education, and not just civic education or public forums that are reactionary. Various other researchers like Oyugi and Kibua (2008). Joshi and Houtzager, (2012), and. Mwenda (2010) argue that there exists a significant positive correlation between levels of education and public participation.

## **2.5 Behavioral Factors that Influence Public Participation**

### **2.5.1 Attitude Factors and Public Participation.**

There is a general consensus among many scholars, about which attitude toward local government is regarded as effective factor to citizen's participation in local government. Some scholars generally agree that a positive attitude toward local government influences



citizens' participation in local government matters. (Kosecik & Sagbas, 2004, Suzanne *et al*, 2007). As local governments become increasingly significant and important in citizens' everyday lives, the investigation of public attitude toward local government becomes vital for success of future local government programs and reforms. Aldashev (2003) considers participation as a social behavior, while Rishi (2003) adds attitude as a central element in social behavior and argues that attitude is imperative for making change of behavior. According to Rishi (2003) people' social actions or their personal program are directed by their attitudes. Rishi further declares that if people's attitude toward an event or an action is positive, it is more likely, that they would divert their behavior in more meaningful ways (Rishi, 2003). Similarly, if citizen have positive attitude towards their local government, it is more likely that they would support the local government initiatives as well as participating more in local government programs. According to Ledingham (2001) Citizens tend to participate in local government activities, when they perceive that the local government is providing some benefits for local people or acting in the best interest of local people, and/ or dedicating resources to support matters of importance to the citizens in the exchange relationship between the people and local government.

Ledingham adds that citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction with their local government. Ledingham & Bruning (2001) concluded that to be effective, relationships need to be seen as mutually beneficial, to the parties in question based on mutual interest. This argument presupposes therefore that people cannot be expected to demonstrate positive attitude toward local government if they do not perceive that the benefits and costs of

local government is not equal. Kosecik & Sagbas (2004) argue that there is a linear relationship between citizens' attitude toward local government and their level of participation the affairs of local government. Stevenson (2007) equally argues that people with a positive attitude toward local government are more likely to participate in local government affairs and programs. Rishi (2003) outlines that understanding of people's attitudes is one of the central concerns in social life and is relatively crucial in influencing the desired change in the peoples' behavior. Citizen participation in local decision making and policy making can also be influenced by their attitude and perception on their ability to influence government decisions, and limited knowledge of, government. Studies by the World Bank (2009) in Bosnia and Herzegovina established that even though a large number of citizens were not satisfied with their representation in municipal or local authorities' activities, a small minority were willing to participate in such activities.

Their participation in local government was limited largely because citizens did not believe they can influence local decision making. As a result, public participation was more reactive than proactive. Kosecik & Sagbas (2004) argue that a positive attitude toward local government can influence local people to be more active and eager to participate in local government activities and programs. Hickey and Seligson (2003) demonstrates that performance of local government or council affect citizen attitude toward the government. It is therefore unlikely that the performance of local government would affect citizen attitude but does not have an influence on their level of participation.

Aspden and Brich (2005) claim that there are a number of factors and issues that influence public 'attitude towards participation in local government affairs and decision-

making. These consist of, citizen's satisfaction for their involvement, citizen interest and understanding of local government, citizen trust of the local government and its members, and previous experience of voluntary participation. (Aspden and Brich, 2005). Lowndes, *et al* (2001) further argue that better understanding of citizen attitude is necessary if public officials are to address and correct the very real problems of apathy among citizens that hinder public participation, if they are to maximize the impact and effectiveness of participation (Lowndes, *et.al*, 2001).

According to a study conducted in Torbat, Iran on the influence of attitude on citizen participation, by Mohammadi *et. al* (2010), there is a linear relationship between level of participation and citizen attitude. The study concluded that it is important for government to focus on measures which are believed to positively influence citizen attitudes toward local government. These conclusions are further supported by other scholars. In a study carried out in the UK to analyse citizen's attitude towards e government, Kolsaker and Lee – Kelley (2008) conclude that improved citizens' perceptions of e-government and e-governance depend on whether decision-making in government is much more transparent and whether outcomes are meaningful. Nam (2011) while conducting a study on citizen attitude toward e – government argues that if a government should care about its citizen's attitudes, then it is crucial to identify and study what shapes citizen perceived value of government. He also argues that trust in the government influences citizen attitude towards the government and its programmes.

### **2.5.2 Trust Factors and Public Participation**

Sociologist and political scientist Robert Putnam (1995) argues about the necessity for organizations and institutions to socialize their members by teaching them trust, solidarity and cooperation. Putnam argued that trust characterizes people's willingness to accept and fulfill some or all of the decisions made by the state. According to Putnam (1995), an individual's involvement in political processes largely depends on the motivation to get involved and the understanding that his/her action will be profitable, beneficial, or useful otherwise.

Many scholars have acknowledged the need either to build trust towards local governance or to overcome its absence in order to influence and encourage public participation in this domain (Fordham *et al.*, 2009; Hibbitt *et al.*, 2001; Russell, 2008) Dasgupta (2000) on his part, believes that 'trust is central to all transactions' while Giddens (1990) argues that some basic form of trust is a requirement necessary in order for us to maintain our 'ontological security'. Generally, the diminishing amount of public trust in governments has been a problem in the last decade, which has attracted a lot of attention by public administration and social researchers' world over. This explicit decrease of public trust in governments has been observed in some developed democracies such as the USA, Canada, Sweden, Great Britain, France and other EU member states. The increase of public trust is therefore an urgent question for many countries (Seimuskane & Voroslava 2013)

According to Inglehart (1999), trust ensures authorities' legitimacy. Putnam (1995) declares that trust establishes individual's willingness and readiness to realize and adopt

decisions taken by state authority. Putnam held that political participation and activity depended on the roles and obligations an individual assumes, by taking part in a political organization. He further argues that whether an individual takes part in any processes or activity related to politics is dependent on their motivation. Other political and social researchers studying the relationship between participation and public trust are not too optimistic. For example, Zmerli (2007) in his research concluded, that although in theoretical literature there are some evidence that a close link exists between participation and trust, this link is very weak and fragmentary, and is only evident in particular countries. XiaoHu Wang (2007) also argues that trust formation in the public sector is influenced by behavioral factors of two main behavioural characteristics of public administrators. First, participation influences trust when participation produces quality services that the public desire, and second, enhanced ethical behavior on the part of public administration is another key reason that participation leads to trust. Their conclusion is that public trust tends to increase when public officials demonstrate characters such as integrity, high moral leadership, honesty, and when ethical values are institutionalized in government processes through the process of participation.

Another relevant question to ask is how much the administrators themselves are ready to trust their citizens. Yang (2005) introduces what he calls ‘ a missing link’ when he admits that large part of theories and scholarly work that explain the increase of public trust in governments are inadequate and insufficient, as they overlook condition that trust ought to be mutual and reciprocal in nature. Gilson (2003) argues that trust ‘is a relational notion and that it typically lies between people and organizations and also between

people and events'. She further observes that it is important for officials to build trust in the state and its agencies so as to establish legitimacy of state action.

A study by Seimuskane & Vorslava (2011) reveal that citizens' satisfaction with their local authority's programs and work is an important attribute in formation of the citizens' attitude towards the authority. At local authorities level, citizens' satisfaction has the very strong linkage with the trust level, namely, citizens are most satisfied with the work of the local authority, when trust level levels are high. The authors however argue that, in formation of attitude against the state authority, at the national level (for instance national government or parliament) the influence of this factor was not absolute. Research demonstrated that certain local authorities recorded this influence, whereas in other local authorities, there was no interconnectedness. Seismuskane & Vorslava (2011), it can therefore be concluded that trust in institutions at the national level is formed by other factors as well. Aitken (2012) in his comprehensive analysis of the role of trust on public participation argues that trust should be viewed as context-dependent. He contends that both the objects of trust and subjects of trust are of critical importance. He further argues that research which only considers a stakeholder's trust in a generalised 'other' and does not explore what this other is trusted to be or do is unlikely to be illuminating.

Tsang (2009) argue that for effective policy formulation and implementation, governments have to gain trust from the citizens. With reference to his research on Trust, public participation and environmental governance in Hong Kong, he summarizes three important dimensions related to the three bases of trust: cognitive, relational and behavioural and how a deliberation strategy can help to rebuild trust. The trust between stakeholders (social trust) is mainly related to the relational dimension of trust, which is

based on shared values and group identification. According to Tsang (2009) factors such as government's general lack of competence, the ability of government to fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities as well as the sense of identity derived from citizen relationship with government are usually cited as key factors that can influence the level of trust (Tsang 2009).

Uslaner & Brown (2003) look at the concept of trust within the context of inequality in society. They argue that greater equality and higher levels of trust are two pathways to participation. Inequality may suppress citizen participation, either directly or indirectly, through its effects on trust. Firstly, where inequality is higher, the poor are likely to feel powerless. They may perceive that their views and priorities are not represented in the political process and they may opt out of civic engagement. Secondly, Uslaner and Brown (2003) argue that trust in others rest on a foundation of economic equality. When resources are distributed inequitably in a society, people at the top and those at the bottom may not see each other as facing a shared fate. Therefore, they may have less reason or no reason at all to trust people of different backgrounds.

## **2.6 Financial Resources and Public Participation.**

### **2.6.1 Income Levels and Public Participation**

In a traditional society, income level of a person is considered as an important criterion for judging one's ability. Similarly to assess the extent of participation of common people in development project, income level of participants indicates the participation of the people. Personal income may be defined as the sum of the market value of rights exercised in consumption and the change in the store of property rights between the

beginning and end of period (Simons, 1938). The notion of personal income also corresponds to that put forward by John Hicks (1946), who described an individual income as maximum value he could consume during period and still be as well off at the end of the period as he was at the beginning.

The Calvert-Henderson Income Indicator focuses on trends in the standard of living as reflected in monetary measures of family income. The trends in the level and distribution of family income since 1947 are explained with a particular focus on what has been the key determinant of family income trends - changes in hourly wages. Growing income inequality since 1973 is explored, along with changes in people's wealth holdings.

The Income Indicator offers a provocative and thoughtful way to assess our economy's performance in raising living standards during the economic boom of the 1990s. Nazleen (2004) found that the participation of the poor and marginalized in rural development has not increased significantly rather some touts and intermediaries have enjoyed more access to these projects and grasped its fruits. There is a general assumption that the interest of the poor and disadvantaged cannot be safeguarded in the exploitative social structure unless it is protected by legislation.

Brady (2003) argues that since political and civic process is also a form of participation, like economic participation which takes place in the market place, it seems that known models of economic participation may provide insights into the relationships between income, income inequality, and political and civic participation. Brady (2003) further observes that for labor force and marketplace participation, a change in income affect the amount of participation.



In order to provide a positive relationship between income and political activity, participation may also provide intrinsic pleasure just like a hobby. Bartels, (2003) & Verba *et al.* (1995) argue that the wealthy segments of society and those who are more highly educated take a greater role in public participation. This is because they have greater stakes in the affairs of government because they understand and appreciate political and social life better. The authors argue that the higher income segments are more likely to be interested and engaged in political and civic engagement activity. Bartels (2003) & Verba *et al.* (1995) further note that the higher segments of society are usually interested in whom to contact, and how to make their voices heard.

Weber (2000) agrees with this notion and further argues that citizen participation committees and forums are usually crowded with members of the highest socioeconomic group. The lack of low-income participants is illustrated in a developing world context by scholars such as Russell and Vidler (2000), who have argued that such citizen participants are difficult to engage in civic activities because their main priorities are to fend for and to provide basic commodities such as food for their families, and not spend time in meetings. Abel and Stephan (2000) while agreeing with this argument, further caution that although many scholars promote public participation as means of 'incorporate community values into decision making process that might otherwise be dominated by a small elite', it appears that, a non-elected small elite can dominate a participator process.

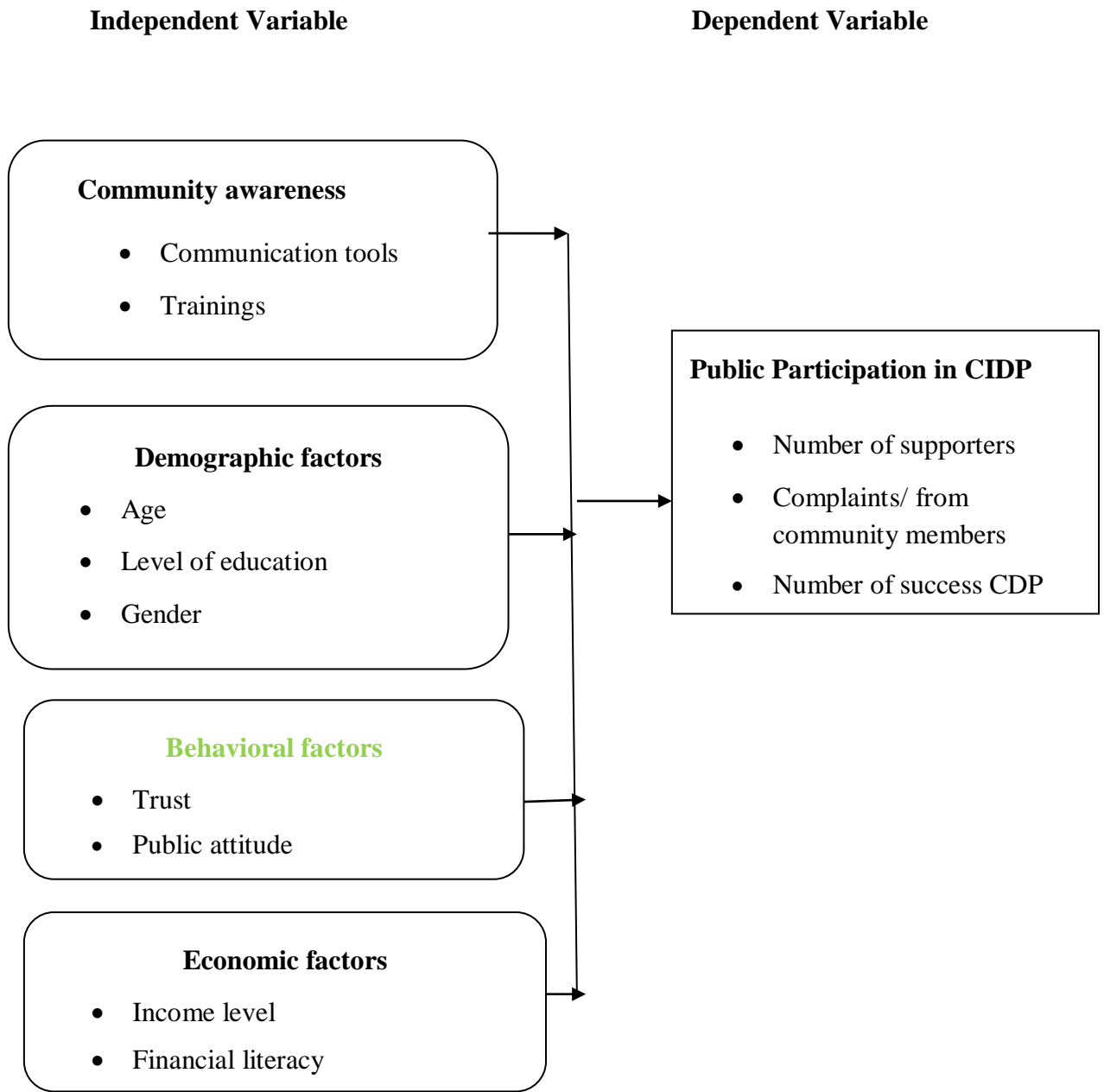
## **2.7 Theoretical Review**

This study adopted the effective community participation model. This model was developed based on the categories and themes that emerged from respondent's spoken

and written words. These categories and themes were identified and correlated through a process of qualitative data analysis. The philosophy of this community participation model is grounded in a horizontal relationship between beneficiaries and functionaries of development projects. Project proponents and the community begin their dialogue at conceptualization and continue to work together until successes and failures of the project are fully evaluated and reintegrated into future planning. Community participation in development projects is therefore hypothesized to be effective by involving local people in all four stages of the model (IEP stage, ICM stage, ownership stage, and feedback stages of participation). Each stage is the result of a set of elements that emerged from the views, opinions, and perspectives. Although these elements are separated in terms of different stages, they are often interrelated and interwoven in practice. For example, consultation of local people is required both at IEP and Feedback stages or also may be required to identify a genuine resource person at the ICM stage. In essence, people are actively involved in the elements that flow out of the four identified stages of the model; they will have a chance for effective participation

## **2.8 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual definition is an element of the scientific research process, in which a specific concept is defined as a measurable occurrence or in measurable terms; it basically gives one the meaning of the concept (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Conceptual framework is a diagrammatic presentation of the relationship between dependent and independent variables.



**Figure 1 Conceptual Framework**

## **2.9 Discussion of the conceptual framework**

The conceptual framework was developed to provide clear links of dependent and independent variables as they relate to each other in this study. The independent variables of community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors are all but factors that influence Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process. The dependent variable is Public Participation in CIDP.

## **2.10 Summary of the Literature and Research Gaps**

The chapter looks at literature review on factors influencing public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process from a global perspective narrowing down to County Government of Meru. The study aimed at examining whether community awareness influence public participation in the county integrated development planning process, whether the demographic factors influence public participation in the integrated development planning process, to access whether behavioral factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process and to find out whether economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section describes the research methodology that was used to conduct the study. The chapter outlines research procedures, sampling techniques, sample size, data collection method and analysis techniques.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Descriptive survey design was used to explore factors influencing public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process. A case of Meru County Government. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) described descriptive survey as the process of collecting data with an aim of testing hypothesis or answering questions concerning the current status of the subject under study. This study employed descriptive survey research design as it is best suited for the study since it allowed the researcher to generate both numerical and descriptive data that was used in measuring the relationship between variables as well as determining their influence in public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process. A descriptive research design was a data-gathering and analysis approach in which respondents will answer questions or respond to statements that were developed in advance at a point in time (Kasunic, 2005). Creswell (2003) advocates for its application in positivists research paradigms because of its ability to collect quantitative data which are analyzable. Descriptive research design is flexible enough to provide opportunity for considering different aspects of the study problem (Delgado-Rodriquez & Llorca, 2004).

The design was used appropriately for this study since descriptive research design produces quality statistical information about aspects of the study that may interest policy makers, industry players and academicians (Shuttleworth, 2008)

### **3.3 Target Population**

Kothari (2008) describes a target population as the total collection of elements about which one wishes to make inferences while the sample size is a representative of a population. The study population comprised of ninety project steering committee members selected from the nine Sub counties of Meru County. Each sub county had ten representatives. Others were ten finance department officers, forty five ward administrators who were all fully involved in the public participation forums during the 2013/2014 and 2014/15 financial years. Also included in the study was fifteen assembly budget committee members. All these gives a target population of one hundred and sixty respondents.

### **3.4 Sample Size Determination**

Cornell (1960) described sampling as the process by which a relatively small number of individuals, objects or events is chosen and analyzed in order to find out something about the entire population from which it was chosen. The researcher used Krejcie and Morgan sample size determination table (Appendix 5). From the sample size determination table, the target population of 160 participants requires a sample size of 113.

### 3.4.1 Sample Size Determination

According to Copper and Schindler (2006), a sample size must be large enough to be representative of the universe population. Yamane's formula (Yamane, 1967) guided in the selection of the appropriate sample size for public participation forums participants that will be interviewed. The formula is ideal for use when it is not possible to interview all the respondents in the population which comprises of all participants. However this study adopted approach of Krejcie and Morgan which gives a sample of 113 based on a population of 160.

The study purposefully uses all the ten finance department officers and all the fifteen assembly budget committee members. The remaining one hundred and thirty five was distributed proportionately to a sample size of eighty eight as follows:

$$\text{Steering committee} = \frac{90 \times 88}{135} = 59$$

$$\text{Ward administrators} = \frac{45 \times 88}{135} = 29$$

Table 3.1 gives distribution of samples as per each group.

**Table 3. 1: Sampling Size**

<b>Distribution sub counties</b>	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>sample size</b>
Project Steering Committee Members of nine Sub Counties of Meru county (ten from each Sub County)	90	59
Finance department officers	10	10
Ward administrators	45	29
Assembly budget committee members	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>113</b>

### **3.4.2 Sample Frame**

A sampling frame as defined by Särndal, Swensson and Wretman (2003) is the source material or device from which a sample is drawn. It is a list of all those within a population who can be sampled, and may include individuals, households or institutions. The sample frame of this study consisted of a list of all participants from the executive that participated in the public participation forums in the 2014/15 financial year from the nine Sub Counties of Meru County, members from the legislative arm which is the county assembly and members of the Sub County Project Steering Committee. The list



was obtained from the County Public Service and Administration department office, Meru.

### **3.4.3 Sampling Technique**

The study used two steps sampling approaches. These are Purposive sampling and simple random sampling. Purposive sampling is a non- probability technique that involves the conscious selection by the researcher of opinion leaders to include in the study. The participants are selected because they have particular characteristics that are of interest to the researcher. Simple random sampling technique allows each potential respondent the probability of being selected, thereby ensuring a high degree of representativeness and was used to identify government officials and administrators who participated in the study.

### **3.5 Methods of data collection**

Primary data was obtained and utilized for purposes of addressing the research objectives. The main primary data collection instrument was the structured survey questionnaires. Telephone interviews were also used to facilitate the data collection using the respondents' telephone contacts provided by the County Public Service and Administration department office, Meru for respondents who may not be available.

#### **3.5.1 Data collection Procedures**

A tailor-made structured questionnaire and interview guide was developed by the researcher, specifically for this study. The data collection method that was used is a structured questionnaire. The data collection instrument (structured questionnaires) was

pilot tested with 10% of the respondents representing who represent similar characteristics as study respondents (Gill & Johnson, 2010). After pilot testing of the data collection instrument, it was necessary to adjustments on the questionnaires before administering it to the whole nine Sub Counties of study. During the pilot test, the validity and reliability of data collection instruments was tested. After revision of the data collection instrument, the whole study sample was subjected to the data collection instrument.

### **3.6 Data Validity and Reliability**

#### **3.6.1 Data Validity**

Data validity refers to the degree to which results obtained from analysis of data actually represents phenomenon under study, Mugenda Mugenda (1999). To achieve content validity the researcher sought assistance from the experts/supervisors on various sections in the questionnaire which were the primary instruments for data collection. Adjustments were made to accommodate recommendations.

#### **3.6.2 Data Reliability**

Reliability of data is the consistency of measures in a study (Bryman and Bell, 2007). It is the degree to which research instruments yields consistent results of data after trials. In this study the researcher tested reliability of data using pilot test method on the questionnaire. A pilot study comprising of ten (10) respondents that are not included in the initial sample was selected randomly from the accessible population and used to carry out the pilot study of the questionnaire before the questionnaire is administered.

### **3.7 Methods of data Analysis**

Once the data was captured from the completed survey instruments, the process of analysis of the data commenced. The purpose of data analysis was to reduce accumulated data to a manageable size, develop summaries, look for patterns, and apply statistical techniques (Cooper and Schindler 2011). Descriptive analysis was used to determine the proportions and frequency of the variables. The data collected from the closed-ended items of the questionnaire was assigned numerical values (coded), checked for any errors and finally analysed by use of a computer package, STATA. Qualitative data was organised and analysed through themes. Other statistical testing processes considered were correlation analysis analysis. The results were presented in form of tables and graphs.

**Table 3. 2: Operationalization Table**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Type of variable</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Data collection procedure</b>	<b>Approach analysis</b>	<b>Level of analysis</b>
Public participation in the County Integrated Planning Process	Dependent variable	Attendance of PP in the last two financial years	Attendance meetings Number of projects accepted in the community	questionnaire	Descriptive statistics	Ordinal
To evaluate the influence of community awareness on PP in CIDP	Independent variable	Information dissemination	Attendance in PP meetings	Questionnaire	Descriptive statistics	Nominal
To evaluate the influence of demographic factors on PP in CIDP	Independent variable	Age Sex Education	Attendance	Questionnaire	Descriptive statistics	Nominal Nominal Nominal
To evaluate the influence of behavioral factors on PP in CIDP	Independent variable	Attitude Trust	Attendance	Questionnaire	Descriptive statistics	Nominal nominal
To evaluate the influence of economic factors on PP in CIDP	Independent variable	Finances Assets	Social classes	Questionnaire	Descriptive statistics	Ordiiinal

### **3.8 Chapter Summary**

This chapter presents the research methodology that will be used in the analysis of the research questions. This will be followed by the statement of the problem that describes the need of the research project and the gaps this research intends to fill for the benefit of

the users of the research. The resolution of the study will be highlighted together with its significant to the users who including policy makers, and the academia.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATIONS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the interpretation and presentation of the findings obtained from the field. The chapter presents the background information of the respondents, findings of the analysis based on the objectives of the study. Descriptive and inferential statistics have been used to discuss the findings of the study.

##### 4.1.1 Response Rate

The study sought to establish the response rate in a bit to determine its adequacy in giving a reliable analysis of the data.

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

	<b>Questionnaires Administered</b>	<b>Questionnaires filled &amp; Returned</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Respondents	113	92	81.4

The study targeted a sample size of 113 respondents from which 92 which filled in and returned the questionnaires making a response rate of 81.4%. This response rate was satisfactory to make conclusions for the study as it acted as a representative. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and over is excellent. Based on the assertion, the response rate was excellent.

### 4.1.2 Reliability Test

A pilot study was carried out to determine reliability of the questionnaires. The pilot study involved the sample respondents. Reliability analysis was subsequently done using Cronbach's Alpha which measured the internal consistency by establishing if certain item within a scale measures the same construct. Gliem and Gliem (2003) established the Alpha value threshold at 0.7, thus forming the study's benchmark. Cronbach alpha was established for every objective which formed a scale.

**Table 4.2: Reliability Test**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Cronbach Alpha coefficient</b>	<b>No. Of Items</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Community awareness	0.860	7	Reliable
Demographic characteristics	0.871	8	Reliable
Behavioral factors	0.910	9	Reliable
Economic factors	0.779	5	Reliable

The table shows that behavioral factors had the highest reliability ( $\alpha= 0.910$ ), followed by demographic characteristics ( $\alpha=0.871$ ) then community awareness ( $\alpha= 0.860$ ) and finally the economic factors ( $\alpha=0.779$ ). This illustrates that all the variables were reliable as their reliability values exceeded the prescribed threshold of 0.7.

### 4.2 Background Information

The study sought to establish the background information of the respondents including their gender distribution, highest level of education and their age.

#### 4.2.1 Gender Distribution

In a bid to establish the gender category of the respondents, the study posed a question requiring the respondents to indicate whether they are male or female. Results of gender distribution are shown in table 4.4.

**Table 4.3: Gender category**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	56	60.9
Female	36	39.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>

On respondent's gender category, the study established that, majority of the respondents as shown by 60.9% were males whereas 39.1% were females. This implies that both male and female respondents were fairly engagement in this study and therefore the research findings did not suffer from gender biasness.

#### 4.2.2 Highest Level of Education

The study sought to determine the respondents' highest level of education achieved.

Results of respondents' highest level of education achieved are shown in table 4.5.

**Table 4.4: Level of Education**

<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
KCSE	16	17.4
College Diploma	33	35.9
Bachelors' Degree	15	16.3
Masters	20	21.7
Post graduate	8	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>



From the research findings, most of the respondents as shown by 35.9% indicated college diploma as their highest level of education, 21.7% indicated masters as their highest level of education, 17.4% indicated KCSE as their highest level of education, 16.3% indicated bachelors' degree as their highest level of education whereas 16.3% indicated post graduate as their highest level of education

#### **4.2.3 Age of the Respondent**

The study sought to determine the respondents' age category. Results of respondents' age distribution are shown in table 4.6.

**Table 4.5: Age of the respondent**

<b>Age category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
20 to 30 years	24	26.1
31 to 40 years	40	43.5
41 to 50 years	16	17.4
Above 51 years	12	13.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From the research findings, most of the respondents as shown by 43.5% indicated that they were aged between 31 to 40 years, 26.1% of the respondents indicated that they were aged between 20 to 30 years 17.4% of the respondents indicated that they were aged between 41 to 50 years where as 13.0% of the respondents indicated that they were aged above 51 years.

### **4.3 Factors Influencing public participation in county integrated development planning process**

Under this sub section the study investigates various factors that influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. The factors include; level community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors.

#### **4.3.1 Community Awareness**

The study sought to establish whether community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results on whether community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process are show in table 4.7

**Table 4.6: Community awareness**

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	76	82.6
No	16	17.4
<b>Total</b>	92	100.0

From the research findings majority of the respondents as shown by 82.6% were of the opinion that community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process whereas 17.4% of the respondents were of the of the contrary opinion.

#### 4.3.1.1 Measures used to encourage public participation and awareness

The study sought to determine some of the tools used by the county government in promoting public awareness and participation in county integrated development planning process.

**Table 4.7: Measures used to encourage public participation and awareness**

<b>Sensitizations tool</b>	<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Local radio station	Yes	66	71.7
	No	26	28.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Short message service	Yes	54	58.7
	No	38	41.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Tv stations	Yes	42	45.7
	No	50	54.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Posters	Yes	66	71.7
	No	26	28.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Local Barazas	Yes	63	68.5
	No	29	31.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Door to door campaigns	Yes	48	52.2
	No	44	47.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.8 shows some of the measures used by the county government to encourage public participation and awareness. From the research findings 71.7% agreed that the county government was using local radio stations to encourage public participation and awareness 58.7% agreed on the use short message service, 45.7% agreed on the use of

local TV stations, 71.7 agreed on the use posters, 68.5% agreed on the use of local barazas whereas 52.2% agreed on the use door to door campaigns. Other measures indicated include partnering with local churches mosques campaigns and county portal. This implies to promoting public awareness and participation in county integrated development planning process, most of the counties were using local radio station agreed on the use of local radio stations use short message service, use of local TV stations, use posters, use of local use door to door campaigns, partnering with local churches mosques campaigns and county portal

#### **4.3.1.2 Level of community awareness and participation in CIDP**

The study sought to determine the extent to which respondents agreed with the below statements relating to effect of community awareness on public participation in county integrated development planning process.

**Table 4.8: Level of community awareness and participation in CIDP**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Community members are always notified of public participation forums within their regions	2.2%	8.7%	6.5%	39.1%	43.5%	4.13	1.02
The level of community awareness determines their public participation in county integrated development planning process	17.4%	7.6%	2.2%	38.0%	33.8%	3.72	1.65
Community members are well involved in the various stages in county integrated development planning process	0%	5.4%	2.2%	47.8%	44.6%	4.32	0.77
Awareness of participation program gives interested communities opportunity a chance to influence the outcome.	16.3%	0%	6.5%	43.5%	33.7%	3.78	1.36

Table 4.9 shows the extent to which level of community awareness influences public participation in county integrated development planning process. From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; community members are well involved in the various stages in county integrated development planning process as shown by a mean of 4.32, community members are always notified of public participation forums within their regions as shown by a mean of 4.31, awareness of participation program gives interested communities opportunity a chance to influence the

outcome as shown by a mean of 3.78 and that community members are always notified of public participation forums within their regions as shown by a mean of 3.72

#### **4.3.2 Demographic Characteristics**

The study sought to establish whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results on whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process are show in table 4.10.

**Table 4.9: Effect of demographic characteristics public participation in CIDP**

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	64	69.6
No	28	30.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From the research findings, majority of the respondents as shown by 69.6% were of the opinion that demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process while 30.4% of the respondents were of the of the contrary opinion. This implies that demographic characteristics influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

#### **4.3.2 .1 Effect of demographic characteristics on public participation in CIDP**

The study sought to determine the extent to which respondents agreed with statements relating to effect of demographic characteristics on public participation in county integrated development planning process.

**Table 4.10: Effect of demographic characteristics on public participation in CIDP**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Low levels education among local communities have decreased public participation in CIDP	12.0%	9.2%	8.7%	33.7%	35.9%	4.32	0.77
Participation of young people in CIDP is relatively low compared to older citizen across the counties	0%	2.2%	13.0%	45.7%	39.1%	3.70	1.40
young men and women feel excluded in their societies thus demotivated from participating in participating in CIDP	3.3%	5.4%	9.8%	47.8%	33.7%	4.22	0.75
Demanding citizenry encourages community participation in CIDP	13.0%	7.6%	12.0%	37.0%	30.4%	4.03	0.98
High level of community trust with political institutions can encourage community participation in CIDP	0%	0%	13.0%	57.6%	29.3%	3.64	1.34
declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in	0%	0%	5.4%	56.5%	38.0%	4.16	0.63

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CIDP										
Low education levels of women hiders their participation in CIDP	0%	0%	0%	60.9%	39.1%	4.33	0.58			
Multiple roles of women in the family setup limits their participation in CIDP	0%	10.9%	10.9%	43.5%	34.8%	4.39	0.49			
people with high education level (Diploma level and above) for purposes of enriching debates on CIDP	0%	4.3%	16.3%	44.6%	34.8%	3.91	1.20			

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Table 4.11 shows the extent to which demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process.

From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; multiple roles of women in the family setup limits their partaking in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.39, Low education levels of women hiders their participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.33, Low levels education among local communities have decreased public participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.32.young men and women feel excluded in their societies thus demotivated from participating in participating in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.22.

Others agreed that, declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.16,demanding citizenry encourages community participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.03,people with high education level (Diploma level and above) for purposes of enriching debates on



CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.91, participation of young people in CIDP is relatively low compared to older citizen across the counties as shown by a mean of 3.70 and that high level of community trust with political institutions can encourage community participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.64

### 4.3.3 Behavioral Factors

The study sought to establish whether behavioral factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results on whether behavioral factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process are show in table 4.12.

**Table 4.11: Behavioral Factors**

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	66	71.7
No	26	28.3
<b>Total</b>	92	100.0

From the research findings majority of the respondents as shown by 71.7% were of the opinion that behavioral factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process whereas 28.3% of the respondents were of the of the contrary opinion. This implies that behavioral factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process

#### 4.3.3.1 Influence of behavioral factors in respect to public participation in CIDP

The study sought to determine extent to which respondents agreed with the statements relating to effect of behavioral factors on public participation in county integrated development planning process.



**Table 4.12: Influence of behavioral factors in respect to public participation in CIDP**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Citizen attitude toward local government determines the extent of citizen's participation in CIDP	0%	14.1%	8.7%	43.5%	33.7%	3.97	1.00
Lack of confidence on the part of women by the wider society limits their participation in CIDP	0%	14.1%	0%	48.9%	37.0%	4.09	0.97
Women attitude to the process of governance, limits their participation in CIDP	0%	0%	0%	66.3%	33.7%	4.34	0.48
Positive attitude towards local government, citizen support on government initiatives including CIDP	0%	34.8%	10.9%	32.6%	21.7%	3.71	1.18
Perceived benefits by the citizens on county development	0%	10.9%	2.2%	64.1%	22.8%	3.99	0.83

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initiatives influences their participation in CIDP Acting in the best interest of local people encourages community participation in CIDP Citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction. Dedicating resources to support matters of importance to the citizens encourages community participation in CIDP People with higher trust on the integrated development planning formulation process participate more effectively	0%	32.6%	8.7%	29.3%	29.3%	3.55	1.23
	0%	10.9%	6.5%	52.2%	30.4%	4.02	0.90
	0%	0%	14.1%	55.4%	30.4%	4.16	0.65
	0%	5.4%	2.2%	47.8%	44.6%	3.84	1.04

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Table 4.13 shows the extent to which behavioral factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; women attitude to the process of governance, limits their participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.34, dedicating resources to support maters of importance to the citizens encourages community participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.16, lack of confidence on the part of women by the wider society limits their participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 4.09 and that citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction as shown by a mean of 4.02.

The study also revealed that the perceived benefits by the citizens on county development initiatives influences their participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.99, Citizen attitude toward local government determines the extent of citizen's participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.97, people with higher trust on the integrated development planning formulation process participate more effectively as shown by a mean of 3.84, positive attitude towards local government, citizen support on government initiatives including CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.71, acting in the best interest of local people encourages community participation in CIDP as shown by a mean of 3.55.

#### **4.3.4 Economic Factors**

The study sought to establish whether economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results on whether economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process are show in table 4.14

**Table 4.13: Economic factors**

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	71	77.2
No	21	22.8
<b>Total</b>	92	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondents as shown by 77.2% were of the opinion that economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process whereas 22.8% of the respondents were of the of the contrary opinion. This implies that economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

#### 4.3.4.1 Influence of economic factors on public participation in CIDP

The research sought to determine extent to which respondents agreed with the statements relating to effect of economic factors on public participation in county integrated development planning process.

**Table 4.14: Influence of economic factors on public participation in CIDP**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
The perceived Economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process	0%	0%	10.9%	76.1%	13.0%	4.02	0.49
People of higher income level participate more effectively	0%	13.0%	13.0%	37.0%	37.0%	3.98	1.02
Majority of residents participate in budget formulation at the very basic level	0%	2.2%	0%	43.5%	54.3	4.48	0.72
Public officials should also ensure that the public resources are managed in transparent manner in order to inspire trust among the public	0%	0%	0%	60.9%	39.1%	4.39	0.49
Perceived economic benefits from county development project uplifts citizen aspirations thus encouraging participation	0%	0%	13.0%	43.5%	43.5%	4.30	0.69

Table 4.15 shows the extent to which economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; majority of residents participate in budget formulation at the very basic level as shown by a mean of 4.48, public officials should also ensure that the public resources are managed in transparent manner in order to inspire trust among the public as shown by a mean of 4.39, perceived economic benefits from county development project uplifts citizen aspirations thus encouraging participation as shown by a mean of 4.30, the perceived economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process as shown by a mean of 4.02, people of higher income level participate more effectively as shown by a mean of 3.98. The finding is in line with the research by

#### **4.3.5 Public participation in constituency**

Respondents were requested to rate level public participation in county integrated development planning process

**Table 4.15: Public participation in county CIDP**

<b>Level public participation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Don't know	17	18.5
Good	40	43.5
Very Good	35	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Table 4.16 shows the level public participation in county integrated development planning process. From the research findings, 43.5% of the respondents indicated that public participation in CIDP was good, 38.0% of the respondents indicated that public participation in CIDP was very good whereas 18.5% of the respondents indicated that public participation in CIDP was. This implies that public participation in CIDP was generally good.

#### 4.3.5.1 Extent of public participation in county integrated development planning process

The research sought to determine extent of public participation in county integrated development planning process.

**Table 4.16: Extent of public participation in county CIDP**

Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
The number of local community members participating in CIDP have generally increased	0%	8.7%	15.2%	47.8%	28.3%	3.96	0.89
Development Projects initiated by county government are operating efficiently under the management of the local community members.	3.3%	12.0%	12.0%	42.4%	30.4%	3.85	1.09
The number of complaints from local community members on county development programs or policies has decreased	0%	0%	5.4%	59.8%	34.8%	4.29	0.57
Local community Supporters of	0%	0%	10.9%	53.3%	35.9%	4.25	0.64

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Development Projects initiated by county government have increased								
More positive comments on citizen engagement by county government have being received from the public	0%	0%	16.3%	40.2%	43.5%	4.27	0.73	

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Table 4.17 shows the extent of public participation in county integrated development planning process.

From the research findings majority of respondents agreed that more positive comments on citizen engagement by county government have being received from the public as shown by a mean of 4.27, the number of complaints from local community members on county development programs or policies has decreased as shown by a mean of 4.29, local community supporters of development projects initiated by county government have increased as shown by a mean of 4.25, the number of local community members participating in CIDP have generally increased as shown by a mean of 3.96 and that development projects initiated by county government are operating efficiently under the management of the local community members as shown by a mean of 3.85

#### **4.4 Pearson Correlation Analysis**

After the descriptive analysis, the study conducted Pearson correlation analysis to indicate a linear association between the predicted and explanatory variables or among the latter. It, thus, helps in determining the strengths of association between the variables.

**Table 4.17: Correlations table**

		Public Participation in CIDP	Level of Community awareness	Demographic factors	Behavioral fetors	Economic factors
Public Participation in CIDP	Correlation Coefficient	1.000				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.				
Level of Community awareness	Correlation Coefficient	.513	1.000			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.			
Demographic factors	Correlation Coefficient	.652	.132	1.000		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.013	.		
Behavioral fetors	Correlation Coefficient	.671	.047	.026	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.001	.	
Economic factors	Correlation Coefficient	.554	.001	.008	.124	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.001	.003	.000	.

Correlation results of the study variables as shown in table 4.18.

The researcher conducted a Pearson moment correlation, the study found a strong positive correlation between public participation in CIDP and level of community awareness as shown by correlation factor of 0.513, this strong positive relationship was found to be statistically significant as the significant value was 0.001 which is less than 0.05. The study also found a strong positive correlation between public participation in CIDP and demographic factors as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.652 at 0.004 level

of significance. The study also found strong positive correlation between public participation in CIDP and behavioral factors as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.671, this too was also found to be statistically significant ( $p\text{-value} = 0.001 < 0.05$ ). And finally the study found a strong positive correlation between public participation in CIDP and economic factors as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.554, this too was also found to be statistically significant ( $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). The findings concur with Franks and Sharma and Dayaratna (2004) who found a strong positive correlation between public participation and perceived economic benefits. The findings further agree with Douglas Huber et al (2008) who found out that strong positive correlation between positive Individual factors and level of public participation.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

From the analysis and data collected, the following discussions, conclusion and recommendations were made. The responses were based on the objectives of the study. The sought to establish whether community awareness about public participation influence public participation in county integrated development planning process, to examine whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in integrated development planning process, to access whether behavioral factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process and to find out whether economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

#### **5.2 Summary of the findings**

##### **5.2.1 Community awareness**

The study established the level of community awareness determines the level public participation in county integrated development planning process the study also noted that in view of promoting public awareness and participation in county integrated development planning process, most of the counties were using local radio station agreed on the use of local radio stations use short message service, use of local TV stations, use posters, use of local use door to door campaigns, partnering with local churches mosques campaigns and county portal

### **5.2.2 Demographic characteristics**

The study established that that demographic characteristics like gender, age level of education, marital status, multiple roles of women in the family setup, level of community trust, fairness, clarity in and transparency of the processes, personal character and community culture, belief systems were among the influenced public participation in integrated development planning process

### **5.2.4 Behavioral factors**

Therefore the reveled that behavioral factors like the quality of policies guiding citizens participation process, public attitude toward local government, allocation of resources, level of coordination and engagement and the perceived community value in the participation process all influenced public participation in integrated development planning process

### **5.2.4 Economic factors**

Therefore the study revealed that economic factors like the perceived economic benefits to from the county development project, estimated time for revenue generation, level of individual income, and awareness on the other economic generating opportunities that may emanate from certain projects were among the factors influencing public participation in integrated development planning process.

## **5.3 Discussion of the Findings**

### **5.3.1 Community Awareness**

In line with the first objective which aimed at to establish whether community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. the study revealed that the level of community awareness determines the extent of public participation in county integrated development planning process, the study also noted that in view of promoting public awareness and participation in county integrated development planning process, most of the counties were using local radio station agreed on the use of local radio stations use short message service, use of local TV stations, use posters, use of local use door to door campaigns, partnering with local churches mosques campaigns and county portal, the findings are in support the findings by McCommon (2013) that community awareness and participation are valuable in improving community welfare, training people in local administration and extending government control through self-initiatives

The study further noted that; community members are well involved in the various stages in county integrated development planning process, community members are always notified of public participation forums witching their regions, the findings are in support of the research by Thwala, (2010) awareness of participation program gives interested communities opportunity a chance to influence the outcome and that community members are always notified of public participation forums within their regions. The findings are in support the findings by World Bank (2004), that community awareness and participation process through which stakeholders gain influence and

control over development initiatives, decisions and resources affecting their lives and livelihoods

### **5.3.2 Demographic Characteristics**

The second objective sought to establish whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results obtained show that demographic characteristics influences public participation in county integrated development planning process, the research also noted that demographic characteristics like; Multiple roles of women in the family setup limits their partaking in CIDP, Low education levels of women hinders their participation in CIDP, Low levels education among local communities have decreased public participation in CIDP, young men and women feel excluded in their societies thus demotivated from participating in participating in CIDP. The findings are in support of the research by UNDP and IPU (2012) that there is strong evidence that participation of young people in formal, institutional political processes is relatively low when compared to older citizen across the globe.

The findings also revealed that declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in CIDP, demanding citizenry encourages community participation in CIDP, people with high education level (Diploma level and above) for purposes of enriching debates on CIDP, participation of young people in CIDP is relatively low compared to older citizen across the counties and that high level of community trust with political institutions can encourage community participation in CIDP. The findings concur with the research by UN IAN YD (2012) that the main



challenge for youth were limited opportunities for effective participation in decision making processes.

### **5.3.3 Behavioral Factors**

The third objective of the study sought to establish whether behavioral factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. from the study Results the study noted that behavioral factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process, further the study noted that women attitude to the process of governance, limits their participation in CIDP, dedicating resources to support matters of importance to the citizens encourages community participation in CIDP, the findings are in support of the findings by Pasek.*et al*, (2008), that positive education levels raises the public's stakes, awareness, and desire to desire the kind of future that want through governance processes like public formulation

The study also revealed that lack of confidence on the part of women by the wider society limits their participation in CIDP and that Citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction. The findings are in support of the research by Akerkar, (2001) that women participation in governance face a myriad challenges including religious and cultural beliefs, lack of economic empowerment.

The study also revealed that the perceived benefits by the citizens on county development initiatives influences their participation in CIDP, Citizen attitude toward local government determines the extent of citizen's participation in CIDP, people with higher trust on the integrated development planning formulation process participate more effectively, positive attitude towards local government, citizen support on government

initiatives including CIDP, acting in the best interest of local people encourages community participation in CIDP. The findings concur with the research by Ihemeje (2013) that lack of effective means of implementing affirmative action, men dominance of political power, relatively low education levels of women, multiple roles of women in the family setup, women attitude to the process of governance, lack of confidence on the part of women and demanding nature of the work at the local assembly level influence public participation in governance process .

#### **5.3.4 Economic Factors**

The fourth objective sought to establish whether economic factors influence public participation in county integrated development planning process. Results obtained showed that economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process. the study also noted that residents participate in budget formulation at the very basic level, public officials should also ensure that the public resources are managed in transparent manner in order to inspire trust among the public, perceived economic benefits from county development project uplifts citizen aspirations thus encouraging participation, the perceived economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process, people of higher income level participate more effectively. The finding is in line with the research by Finkel, *et al*,(2012),

#### **5.2.5 Public participation in county CIDP**

The study established that public participation in county integrated development planning process was generally good, the research also noted that more positive comments on citizen engagement by county government have being received from the public, the

number of complaints from local community members on county development programs or policies has decreased, local community supporters of development projects initiated by county government have increased, the number of local community members participating in CIDP have generally increased and that development projects initiated by county government are operating efficiently under the management of the local community members

#### **5.4 Conclusions**

The first objective sought to determine whether community awareness influence public participation in integrated development planning process, the study established that encouraging public awareness was critical in promoting citizen participation on CIDP. The study also noted that the success of public participation in CIDP is dependent on citizen awareness of participation program, effective utilization of different public platforms. Thus the study concludes that the level of public participation influence public was highly deeded on level of public awareness and vice versa.

The second objective sought to determine whether demographic characteristics influence public participation in integrated development planning process, the study established that participation of young people in CIDP is relatively low compared to older citizen across the counties. the study also found a strong positive correlation between Public Participation in CIDP and Demographic factors (person correlation coefficient = 0.652 P= value = 0.004) Therefore the study concludes that demographic characteristics like gender, level of education, marital status, and community culture, belief systems were among the influenced public participation in integrated development planning process

The third objective sought to determine whether behavioral factors influenced public participation in integrated development planning process, the study established that Citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction. Therefore the study concludes that behavioral factors like the level of trust, fairness, clarity in and transparency of the processes, level of coordination and engagement and the perceived community value in the participation whole process all influenced public participation in integrated development planning process.

The fourth objective sought to establish effect of economic factors on public participation in county integrated development planning process. The study established that the perceived Economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process, therefore the study concludes that economic factors like the perceived economic benefits to from the county development project, estimated time for revenue generation, level of individual income, and awareness on the other economic generating opportunities that may emanate from certain projects were among the factors influencing public participation in integrated development planning process.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

The study noted that low level of public awareness on contributed to poor public participation in integrated development planning process, thus the strong measures that promote public awareness on integrated development planning need to be instituted.

The study revealed that demographic characteristics level of education, marital status, multiple roles of women in the family setup, and community culture were among the influenced public participation in integrated development planning process. thus the study recommend that CIDP program should be tailored to encompass the dynamic nature in demographic characteristics of citizens.

The study noted that level of trust, fairness, clarity in and transparency of the processes, level of coordination and engagement and the perceived community value in the participation whole process all influenced public participation in CIDP. thus the study recommend that the county government need to improve on public relation, reporting as well as policy communication as this was found to be positively related to public participation levels in CIDP

The study notes that the perceived economic benefits from the county development initiative influenced public participation levels in CIDP thus the study concludes that CIDP program should endeavor to initiate projects that are of economic benefit to the local communities

### **5.6 Recommendations for further research**

The study sought to investigate factors influencing public participation in the county integrated development planning process. The study suggests that a similar study need to be conducted this time assessing the effectiveness of the initiated citizen engagement measures by the county.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Introduction Letter

**Names**

Date

Dear Respondent,

I am conducting a survey on factors influencing public participation in the integrated development planning process formulation with the objective of exploring how best to improve Public Participation in Integrated Development Planning Process a case study of Meru County Government. The study is titled “factors influencing Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process a case of Meru County Government.”

You have been selected as a respondent because of your past participation in integrated development planning process formulation. The survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete; your experiences and observations are very important to me.

Your feedback will be treated with utmost confidentiality and used for research purposes only.

Regards,

Mutwiri Gideon Kimathi

University of Nairobi

## **Appendix 2: Survey Questionnaire**

### **Factors Influencing Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process. A Case Study of Meru County Government Questionnaire to Past Public Participants above Formulation Process**

#### **Section A: Community Awareness**

1. Indicate your gender

Male (      )      female      (      )

2. Indicate your highest level of education

Kenya Certificate of Secondary School (      )

College Diploma      (      )

Bachelors' Degree      (      )

Masters      (      )

Post graduate

Other .....

3. Age of the respondent

20-30 years      (      )

31 to 40 years      (      )

41 to 50 years (      )

Above 51 years      (      )

#### **Section B: Community Awareness**

4. In your opinion does community awareness influence public participation in county integrated development planning process?



Yes ( ) No ( )

5. If yes please explain

.....  
 .....

6. Does the county government used the following measure to encourage public participation and awareness

	Yes	No
Local radio station		
Short message service		
Tv stations		
Posters		
Local Barazas		
Door to door campaigns		

7. Indicated other measures used by the county government in porting public awareness and participation in county integrated development planning process

.....  
 .....  
 .....

8. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement assessing the level of community awareness in respect to public participation in county integrated development planning process (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Community members are always notified of public participation forums witching their regions					

The level of community awareness determines their public participation in county integrated development planning process					
Community members are well involved in the various stages in county integrated development planning process					
Awareness of Participation program gives interested Communities opportunity a chance to influence the outcome.					

8b Indicate other ways through which community awareness about public participation influence public participation in county integrated development planning process.

.....  
 .....

**Section C: Demographic Characteristics**

9 Do demographic characteristics influence public participation in county integrated development planning process?

Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes please explain

.....  
 .....

10. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement assessing the effect of demographic characteristics on public participation in county integrated development planning process (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Low levels education among local communities have decreased public participation in CIDP					
Participation of young people in CIDP is relatively low compared to older citizen across the counties					

young men and women feel excluded in their societies thus demotivated from participating in participating in CIDP					
Demanding citizenry encourages community participation in CIDP					
High level of community trust with political institutions can encourage community participation in CIDP					
declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in CIDP					
Low education levels of women hinders their participation in CIDP					
Multiple roles of women in the family setup limits their participation in CIDP					
people with high education level (Diploma level and above) for purposes of enriching debates on CIDP					

11 Indicate other ways through which demographic characteristics influence community participation in county integrated development planning process.

.....  
 .....

**Section D: Behavioral Factors**

12. Does behavioral factors influence public participation in integrated development planning process?

Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes please explain

.....  
 .....

13 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement assessing the effect of behavioral factors in respect to public participation in county integrated development planning process (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Citizen attitude toward local government determines the extent of citizen's participation in CIDP					
Lack of confidence on the part of women by the wider society limits their participation in CIDP					
Women attitude to the process of governance, limits their participation in CIDP					
Positive attitude towards local government, citizen support on government initiatives including CIDP					
Perceived benefits by the citizens on county development initiatives influences their participation in CIDP					
Acting in the best interest of local people encourages community participation in CIDP					
Citizens expect mutual interactions with local government and they seek a balance between the social costs of interaction.					
Dedicating resources to support matters of importance to the citizens encourages community participation in CIDP					
People with higher trust on the integrated development planning formulation process					

participate more effectively					
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14 Indicate other ways through which behavioral factors influence community participation in county integrated development planning process.

.....  
 .....

**Section F: Economic Factors**

15. Does economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process.

Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes please explain

.....  
 .....

16. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement assessing the effect of economic factors on public participation in county integrated development planning process (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
The perceived Economic factors influences public participation in county integrated development planning process					
People of higher income level participate more effectively					
Majority of residents participate in budget formulation at the very basic level					
Public officials should also ensure that the public resources are managed in transparent manner in order to inspire trust among the public					
Perceived economic befits from county					

development project uplifts citizen aspirations thus encouraging participation					
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17 Indicate other ways through which economic factors influence community participation in county integrated development planning process.

.....  
 .....

18 How would you rate public participation in your constituency

	Very Bad	Bad	Don't Know	Good	Very Good
How would you rate public participation in your constituency					

19 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement assessing the level of public participation in county integrated development planning process (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
The number of local community members participating in CIDP have generally increased					
Development Projects initiated by county government are operating efficiently under the management of the local community members.					
The number of complaints from local community members on county development programs or policies has decreased					
Local community Supporters of Development Projects initiated by county government have increased					
More positive comments on citizen engagement by county government have being received from the public					

**Thank you for your time**