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**DETERMINANTS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEVOLVED  
GOVERNANCE IN KENYA; A CASE STUDY OF MACHAKOS COUNTY**

**BY**

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## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this project is my original work and has never been presented to any other University for any academic credit.

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In my capacity as the supervisor of this project, I acknowledge that the above declaration is true to the best of my knowledge.

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## CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	vii

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.3 Objectives of the study.....	4
1.3.1 Broad Objective .....	4
1.3.2 Specific Objectives. ....	5
1.4 Research Questions.....	5
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study .....	5
1.6 Rationale of the Study .....	6

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 Citizen Participation Concept.....	9
2.3 Elements of Citizen Participation.....	11
2.3.1 Citizen Participation as a Human Right .....	11
2.3.2 Transparency in Public Participation. ....	12
2.3.2 Citizen Participation and Accountability. ....	12
2.3.3 Citizen Participation and freedom of information .....	13
2.3.4 Citizen Participation and Equity .....	14
2.4 Decision Making in Public Participation. ....	14
2.5 Determinants of Citizen Participation .....	14
2.7 Individual Citizen related factors determining their Participation in Governance .....	20
2.8 Theoretical Framework.....	20
2.8.1 Public Choice Theory .....	20
2.8.2 Public Value Theory (PVT).....	21
2.8 Conceptual Framework.....	22

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY USED IN THE RESEARCH

3.1 Introduction.....	24
3.2 Research Design .....	24
3.3 Study Location .....	24
3.4 Target Population .....	25
3.5 Sampling Technique and Sample size .....	26
3.6 Data Collection Methods .....	28
3.7 Research instruments .....	29

3.7.1 Key informants interview schedules .....	29
3.7.2 Focused group discussions.....	29
<b>3.8 Piloting of Research Instruments .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>3.9 Data Collection Procedure .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>3.10 Data analysis.....</b>	<b>32</b>

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

<b>4.1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>4.3 Nature of citizen participation in Devolved County Governance .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4.4 Institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>4.5 Individual factors influencing participation in devolved governance Members of the Public .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>4.6 Socio-cultural factors influencing participation in devolved governance .....</b>	<b>46</b>

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>5.1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>5.2 Summary of the Findings of the Study .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>5.3 Conclusions.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>5.4 Recommendations .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>5.5 Recommendations for areas of further research .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>APPENDIX I: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR MCA. ....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>APPENDIX III: FGDs SCHEDULE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANTS; MINISTERS.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>APPENDIX III: WORK PLAN.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>APPENDIX VI: MAP OF MACHAKOS COUNTY .....</b>	<b>70</b>

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CBMS	- Community Based Monitoring System
COK	- Constitution of Kenya
CSOs	- Civil Society Organizations
FGDs	- Focus Group Discussions
FOI	- Freedom of Information
ICJ	- International Court of Justice
KHRC	- Kenya Human Rights Commission
KI	- Key Informants
SPAN	- Social and Public Accountability Network
SPSS	- Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TFDG	- Task Force on Devolved Governance
WCF	- Ward Citizen Forums

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Table 3:1	Machakos Members of County Assembly	pg 34
Table 3:2	Ministers of Machakos County Government	pg 35
Table 3:3	Sample size of the study	pg36
Table 3:4	Demographic characteristics of the FGDs	pg 37
Table 4:1	Participants demographic representation of the study	pg 41
Table 4:2	FGD composition based on Constituencies	pg 42
Table 4:3	comparison and ranking of Constituencies	pg 54

## **ABSTRACT**

Devolution is mainly associated with decentralization of power and sharing national resources among county. Despite the centrality of public participation in ensuring good governance, studies reveal that there is an information gap on the devolved structures and what constitutes devolution in the Kenyan context. This study therefore seeks to assess the determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance in the Country. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: to establish the nature of citizen participation in devolved governance, to find out institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance, to determine individual factors influencing their participation in devolved governance and the socio-cultural factors influencing their participation in devolved governance.

The study adopted the use of exploratory research design. The target population for the study was members of the public (18 years and above), members of the County assembly and ministers in County Government. Stratified sampling technique was used to group the population into constituencies. Purposive sampling was used to sample the participants for the study. This study was carried out in seven constituencies where one was used for piloting. A total of 182 respondents were targeted by the study (constituting 168 members of the public, 8 MCAs and 6 ministers) out of which 107 responded (members of the public, 6 MCAs and 5 ministers) giving a response rate of 64%.

Data collection was done through Key Informant Interview schedules for MCAs and Ministers and Focus group discussions for members of the public. The interview information was analyzed in a systematic whereby the author established patterns, trends and relationships in the information gathered and came to useful conclusions and recommendations,. The study found that members of the public in Machakos County participate in County governance in the following ways: attending development meetings, consultative forums and. The study also found that institutional factors such as outdated structures, poor security, corruption, tribalism and nepotism, lacking formal procedures to host public views and lack of proper channels for feedback. The individual related factors such as poverty, lack of time and interest, ignorance and lack of confidence on the county leadership hinder their participation in governance. Socio-cultural factors such as: poor distribution of resources, poverty, illiteracy and age barriers influence the participation of the public in public governance.

The study recommended that more awareness be created among the members of the public. This will encourage their participation in governance as they will know the importance of participation and ways by which they can participate. The study finally recommended that another study be done to assess the challenges facing the County government in involving members of the public in governance which was not the concern

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In the quest to improve the operations and success of governance, governments have shifted from the centralized and government being the source of policies and service to decentralized and Citizen Participating in policy formulation and service delivery. A decentralized mechanism of governance is viewed by both researchers and administrators as the solution to improving the constraints faced in centralized service delivery. (Robinson, 2007). According to Azfar, (1999) decentralization involves the central government transferring to lower-level governments, both financial and administrative and political powers. The adoption of decentralization is appearing to be the trend in public administration in the world, judging by the sizeable number and the ever increasing number of countries applying it in governance in the last three decades. (Steiner, 2005, Ahmad,2005), indicates that over 75 countries have tried to make use of decentralization in the period between 1980-2005.

The shift is changing, in that to improve on governance is not only gauged by service delivery or on the transfer of resources and functions to lower level of government but also mainly on the relationship the government maintains with the citizens (Brinkerhoff, 2007). Scholars are increasingly advancing the theory that development is a by-product of peoples decisions on how to improve their livelihoods. Thus many efforts are being focused on capacity building to empower citizens to be able to participate in governance. Hayden (2007)

In fact Steiner (2005) citing Litvack and Seddon,( 1999) notes that the main objective of decentralization is to tap on its potential of enabling citizens to effectively get involved in local election decision making. In this context, decentralization is the mode to achieving high democratic principles of transparency, accountability and separation of powers.

The system of decentralization may be viewed as the framework which citizens organize themselves at the local government level, in order to participate in arriving at solution to



challenges affecting them. Cheema (2007). For decentralization to succeed, the local governments have to not only have the capacity to make effective decisions, but also be considerate to preferences, priorities and participation of the community. (Robinson, 2007). Thus decentralization has been adopted due to its practice of inclusiveness in governance world over. (Blunt & Turner, 2007).

The contents of governance may vary from one country to the other, but the common factor is the broad concept. Two different ways has been used in conceptualizing Governance. The classical supporters advance an instrumental concept. They view it as the instrument through which government policies are implemented. (Brown, 2007), (UNESCAP, 2008). The contemporary view is more wide, more citizen inclusive and more rewarding. Its proponents view it as a process through which government and citizens' decision are implemented. Consequently people-oriented mechanisms in political economic and social objectives are realized among them poverty reduction, creation of employment, community cohesion among others. (Shelly 2000). Governance is equated to good management which results to higher performance, good management of public money which ultimately results to best outcomes.(Langlands, 2004)

Governance can als be described in normative terms. Its like the yardstick of standardizing the levels of service delivery levels. (Minogue 1997,Barten, 2002). The term governance is seen as the replacement to or the shift from government (2000). In government it's the only player in service delivery while the citizens, private sector and the government share the role of service delivery in governance.(Roelofs, 2009). Seven different broad uses of the terms governance, this may be applied to show a change from government. The common factor with all the uses of governance is the inclusion of the aspects of increased participation of citizens, accountability and transparency of public leadership , reduction of central government powers while citizens participation increases and vertical networking opposed to earlier horizontal networking.

Therefore governance can be seen to be the opposite, a shift in the usage of term government. It's the neo- governing with more participation of citizens and less involvement of state and in the public service delivery. Governance is viewed as a by-

product of interactive social-political forms of governing. Similarly, governance could be said to be the outcome of the inclusiveness strategy applied to achieve higher levels of development. The participation of citizens within the governing process is the main meaning of governance. (Barten, 2002, Carley, 2006). Classical democracy has the common practice of citizens choosing representatives to represent their interests both in central and local levels. Citizens exercise their right to choose a representative who in turn hold bureaucrats accountable and make decisions on their behalf. Participation of citizens is through the elected representatives. In recent times there is a change from this representative practice which places citizens as clients to one where citizens are participants, decision makers to matters any future effect over them (Bardhan 2002, Mollah 2008, Leighninger 2005, Sarker 2008, Holzer and Kloby, 2005).

Participation entails the involvement of all stakeholders'. They are actively involved in decision making, and planning on development initiatives and effective utilization of public resources, (Odhiambo, Taifa, 2009). This system enables citizens to be in control of the planning and policy formulation, choosing investment projects and making decisions on matters affecting them. In the developed economies, the aspect people's inclusiveness in process of governance is entrenched in the legal requirement of any local government operations. (Okello, Oenga and Chege, 2008). It's a common assumption that devolved local units will make more citizens participate in the governance process, establishing accountability in local government institutions consequently service delivery becomes effective. Some of the sound effects of participation is seen as poverty alleviation at the local level, development of the necessary sense of the ownership among citizens, contribute to sustainability of development initiatives, builds capacity in local community in governance, links development to peoples' needs, gives recognition to the marginalized, guards against corruption among the office bearers, and guarding against unnecessary political interference especially from political leaders (Blair 2000, Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009, Holzer and Kloby 2005, Barten, 2002).

In the New Kenyan Constitution Chapter 7 is titled, 'Representation of the People'. This chapter tackles on how citizens of all walks, are entitled to fair representation in every sphere in Kenya. The government has a responsibility to building the citizens' capacity, to enable them to fully participate in governance. Capacity building could be in areas like; electoral processes, rights and responsibilities to participate in governance, and the consequences of participating or not participating in governance. the citizens should be aware that they are entitled to an explanation in case their desire to participate is curtailed. It is upon this background that I endeavored to study and assess the determinants of citizen participation in governance in Kenya; a case study of Machakos County.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Devolution is associated with decentralization of political powers and resources from the central government to the devolved units. Despite the centrality of public participation in ensuring good governance, information on the structure, operations and the importance of devolution is of wanting state. From a baseline survey findings of a report on the status of governance in Kenya, 24.7% of the public are aware of how devolution operates, and about 29% understood the county structures in the devolved governments. A paltry 1% of the population mentioned having engaged in developing policies on devolution. It's evident from this survey that voting is the only participation process widely practiced by majority of the citizens in total disregard of all others. (Society for International Development, 2012). This is an indication that in as much as the devolution governance is being implemented in Kenya, public participation is still negligible. This study therefore endeavor to assess the determinants of citizen participation in governance in Kenya.

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The objectives guiding the study were as follows:-

### **1.3.1 Broad Objective**

To assess the determinants of citizen participation in governance.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives.**

1. To find out the nature of citizen participation in devolved County governance.
2. To find out the institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance.
3. To determine the individual factors influencing participation in devolved governance.
4. To establish the socio-cultural factors influencing participation in devolved governance.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What is the nature of citizen participation in devolved governance?
2. What are the institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance?
3. What are the individual factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance?
4. What are the socio-cultural factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance?

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Presently the new devolution Constitution in Kenya is in its implementation stage. This study sought to assess in broad perspective the determinants of citizen participation in County governance. The study specifically sought to: establish the characteristic of citizen participation in devolved governance; to find out the institutional factors influencing citizen participation among them the attitude of the government towards citizen participation, the existing legal framework on citizen participation, devolved governments efforts in promotion of community capacity building; Find out the individual factors affecting citizen participation such as age, gender, levels of awareness and education and personal attitudes, distance to government offices among others and to establish the socio- cultural factors affecting citizen participation among them gender, religious beliefs.

Other than these chosen areas/ scope of study, it was worth noting that there are other prerequisite factors especially within the broad social accountability which dictate the success of devolution system thus the findings of this study are likely to reveal other unanticipated information capable of enriching and influencing positively the process of devolution government.

The study focused on the determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance. Participation in this context refers to taking part in the planning, implementation and giving back feed-back for either improvement, correction or complimenting the Devolved governments.

The study was carried out in the 8 constituencies. The target population for the study were members of the public (18 years and above) and leaders at the county government (members of the County assembly).

### **1.6 Rationale of the Study**

Chapter eleven of the new constitution of Kenya, contains and is solely dedicated to the devolved system of government. Public policy decision makers agree on importance of citizens' participation. It makes the government action more effective and sustainable in the long term. Local levels with devolution cease to become the consumers of development policies decided by external actors, to becoming the formulators and implementers, thus choosing the direction of the community matters. They in agreement that easy access to adequate information, possession of knowledge on rights and responsibilities and channels which they can exercise them, makes the local population politically mature having the where withal to impose standards and demand for accountability and performance from local leaders.

Furthermore the aspect of devolution is new in Kenya; the general assumption is that citizens have low levels of awareness if any on the subject. This study thus endeavors to fill in the research gap by assessing the determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance. Thus the study offers the much needed practical input upon which future

forums for civic education and participatory programs further research will be anchored. ‘Citizens awareness and participation in government is very much a work- in-progress and further research is required as it progresses’ (Aulich, 2009).

This work is equally important to devolution promotion policy makers. It makes a strong argument that high levels of citizens’ awareness and citizens’ participation in the local levels can have a significant bearing on the overall performance of devolution government. This profound argument challenges the dominant focus on fiscal and physical allocation, power sharing, electoral reforms and constitutionalism. In so doing, the study offers a dimension which, when complemented with other mainstream devolution strategies can lead to robust success in devolved governance system.

## **1.7 Operational Definition of terms.**

<b>Accountability</b>	Refers to being responsible for one's decision and actions and Be Ready to explain them when asked to.
<b>Awareness</b>	knowing the existence of taking interest in devolution and its importance.
<b>County</b>	an area legally demarcated as a local government, receiving authority from the central government to run the affairs of that localized area.
<b>Devolution</b>	Refers to the act of power sharing between central authority or government to a local authority or regional government.
<b>Governance</b>	Legally controlling the running of the County governments.
<b>Nature</b>	Characteristics of participation in county governance.
<b>Participation-</b>	Refers to taking part in the planning, implementation and a giving back feedback for either improvement, correction or complimenting the local governments.
<b>Responsibility</b>	having a legal duty to participate in decision making.
<b>Rights</b>	Having a legal claim to be part of devolution governance.
<b>Social accountability</b>	A sustained effort to make information transparent, enable citizens' to participate in local governance, and hold the local leaders accountable for their decisions.
<b>Transparency</b>	Making information readily available for scrutiny.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents related existing written information on citizen participation concept. It examines citizen participation elements, and determinants of citizen participation, citizen participation in planning and on policy related challenges to citizen participation. The chapter ends with a presentation of the theories to be used in the study and conceptual framework.

#### **2.2 Citizen Participation Concept**

The major positive outcomes and achievements of Citizen participation is the realization of sustainable development and effective governance. Institutionalized citizen participation is seen as one of the most important tentacle of good governance in democratic systems (Coulibaly, 2004). Citizen participation is expressed in areas like being consulted in policy formulation, being able question on matters affecting them and the operations of the staff in office, and electing the persons to serve them.

Citizen participation processes in governance may be represented in following sequence: One-way relationship model whereby Information flows from governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to the citizens. This happens in initial stages and is mainly applicable in situations when dealing with the most vulnerable groups and majorly presents itself at the information stage. At this stage citizens are viewed solely as consumers and their impact is minimal; Then it proceeds to the Consultation stage which is interactive in nature, through educative forums, opinion surveys and polls. This stage is characterized by formulation of reactions on policies presented by the government or preparing a new policy, being a representative in decision making organs of the government, close partnership with governmental bodies, defining the content and setting out its agendas, citizens volunteering to develop their community, playing the watch dog role of monitoring, inspecting and evaluating the policies and public service delivery.



Substantial citizen participation is viewed as the solution to tackling the threat of development in West Africa. When citizens take part in the process of planning and implementing solutions to challenges affecting them, then there is high chances of the projects sustainability. Therefore citizen participation is a prerequisite to, enabling countries to overcome their biggest their challenges.

The Aarhus convention 1998, aslo refered to as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention has more than thirty five European nations as signatories. This convention which became operational in 2001. The main focus of this agreement was the inclusion of local people in making decisions on their matters affecting their environment. The signatories seek to involve people to people's participation and access to information in all environmental decision making at local levels. The developed countries and organizations stemming from there have further placed participation of the communities as a requisite for acquiring funding from them a good example being the World Bank. (Begum and Momen, 2005). These organizations present active involvement of the affected communities as the main catalyst to attaining success in fighting poverty in developing countries (DFID 2007; Shah 2006; World Bank 2002).

Community participatory development in Kenya was pioneered and for long under the direction of local communities as their development projects (Wakwabubi and Shiverenje, 2003). The initial institutionalized attempts to decentralized was done through session papers as early as 1960s. The most notable Kenyan early attempt to planning and implementation of its programmes in a devolved manner was in 1983 when the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) programme was inaugurated and become operational. Though it was set up on participatory focus, much of its planning and implementation was done by the central government.(Chitere and Ireri, 2004). In essence, citizens were to be educated by the development workers, to be able to identify and come up with solutions to challenges affecting them.. Further the DFRD programme was not entrenched legally as an Act of Parliament, thus the coordinating committees

operated administratively. These programs which have been created as a result of policy pronouncements lacked sustainability.(Social and Public Accountability Network [SPAN], 2010).

In other cases like the landmark Physical Planning Act in 1996 was an upgrade, a great positive leap to achievement on participatory endeavor and its legal frameworks in Kenya. The statute was entrenched in the laws of Kenya to include the local communities part of preparation and implementation of physical and development plans in their areas. However, the the critical element of capacity building of the citizens was overlooked by the policy formulators. Furthermore its operation in Physical planning concentrated in major towns and thus marginalizing rural communities in the participatory planning (Okello, 2008).

### **2.3 Elements of Citizen Participation**

The importance of Citizen participation are diverse and beneficial to citizens. Among these benefits are that an enlightened citizenry will ensuring they protection their rights, participation calls for openness in matters of governance, the public leadership are to be accountable to the public on their operations, the involvement of citizens in governance enable them to influencing decision thus they attain economic equity.

#### **2.3.1 Citizen Participation as a Human Right .**

Citizen participation in Kenyan new constitution can be viewed as an expansion of the Bill of Rights. Its transformative from the cosmetic policy pronouncement to full entrenchment in the constitution thus the beginning of an interactive relationship between two levels of government. Meaningful change will be realized with more sovereignty of citizenship through enlargement of strategic objectives and strengthening of the institutions unlike in the earlier years where the idea of participation was a mirage. (Tusk Force Report on Devolved Government, 2011).

Most of the Kenyan citizens are in agreement that it's the moment for a shift from the non-beneficial forms of participation to one based on accountability, transparency and equity-enhancing solidarity. All people share this optimism and look forward to

implementation of modalities, policy framework and statutory requirements for citizen participation.

### **2.3.2 Transparency in Public Participation.**

To effectively participate in governance, Citizens need to have access to information. The right to access to information is closely related to transparency which is in two folds: openness in citizen actions and openness in public leadership and administration. The combination of openness of public administration and citizens actions completes the circular ring of citizen participation in an open government. The Kenyan constitution Article 201(a) calls for straight forwardness and accountability especially in addressing issues in economic and political governance. Its been the hope and desire of the Kenyan citizens to the realization of this imperative of open society for ages. This openness can be fully realized with the inclusion of grounded laws that will enable access to information.

Participation encourages transparency of interaction and can be practiced through mediums like social/participatory budgeting, transparency in procurement and oversight committees, open budget process to citizen participation, monthly revenue and expenditure reports, face-to-face question and answer sessions among others. (CoK, 2010).

### **2.3.2 Citizen Participation and Accountability.**

Kenya has had a long history of corruption especially in economic mismanagement of resources. Kenyan Citizens welcomed the new constitution of Kenya with great expectations of better chance and empowerment against the corruption vice. The constitutional provision on accountability and the powers vested on the citizens are the source of great hope on slaying the mammoth dragon of corruption and impunity

For accountability to be viewed as present, the public officials have to be responsible of their actions and answerable to the people they serve. Accountability is central to good governance thus its been of great interests to scholars, administrator and civil societies keen on democratic practices. For effective accountability , it has to be entrenched in legal

frameworks that if infringed will attract penalties. This deterrence should be on behalf of the citizens welfare. (Tusk Force Report on Devolved Government, 2011).

### **2.3.3 Citizen Participation and freedom of information**

Effective democracy, is supposed to allow free flow of information to the citizens, which in turn empowers them participate more fully in public life. On the other hand, democratic values of equity, equality and justice for all have to be present for freedom of information to function as a fundamental human right, the exercise of democratic citizenry and upholding of democratic values of equality and have to be present. The consequences of Inadequate access to public information includes; presence of corruption, unequal access to public resources, lack of transparency in public affairs among much more.

Effective governance entails the presence of transparency. In the Kenyan constitution (Article 196) (1) (a) (b) the County Assemblies are directed to conduct their governance matters allowing scrutiny and allowing participation of citizens. Facilitation of public participation includes building capacity in Budget literacy, thus citizens be able to forward views and suggestions in the process. This fosters the feeling of ownership and further promotes sustainability of projects in the community. (CoK, 2010).

Tusk Force Report on Devolved Government (2012) listed the following as acts of Citizen Participation; choosing of representatives to various development committees, voicing ones views on matters affecting the community, attending forums organized by the county government, scrutinize county projects, being members of neighborhood organizations. Consequently the county government has a responsibility to facilitate and encourage the citizens in their quest to participate through actions like conducting civic education forums, holding public barazas, Creation of the office of Ombudsman and Public Complaints Standing Committee, devise ways of receiving feedback from the citizens, The public leaders to encourage open door for the citizens to reach them easily.

### **2.3.4 Citizen Participation and Equity**

Equity is an important component of and encouraging effective governance. Equality has been considered as the main ingredient for justice to be effective. Equity in resources distribution and equality in responsibilities has to be presumed to be real for citizens to feel part and parcel of governance. Many concepts on the best practice of equality have been advanced by scholars and the drafters of the new Kenyan constitution included them. In this context, equity is viewed as equal distribution of the public resources and opportunities while equality is the presumption of that all persons are equal regardless of tribe, color, religion, social political or economic status in the country. In the political justice domain, all citizens have the right to be considered and involved in decision making concerning the distribution of social goods. (Article 10. (2)(b) (CoK, 2010).

The world has witnessed widespread societal conflicts which can squarely be attributed to inequality and inequity in these communities. The voices of all the members of these communities are to be heard, with encouragement of meaningful dialogue and equitable distribution of resources and justice achieved for all for conflicts to be a thing of the past. Participation is to be part and parcel of the day to day life of the citizens. Consequently most of the challenges facing the community will be a thing of the past. (Tusk Force Report on Devolved Government, 2011).

### **2.4 Decision Making in Public Participation.**

Involving citizens in decision making presupposedly leads to positive benefits to governance among them popular ownership of the decision which in turn will breed to sustainability of the The new Constitution of Kenya created the provision for the participation of the public in the decisions making process indirectly and directly. This was to support this through legal backup. Further there was inclusion of civic education mandate to enlighten the citizens on the new order.

### **2.5 Determinants of Citizen Participation**

There exists written information on the factors which determine how and why citizens participate in governance It specifically presents literature on citizen awareness, initiatives by the county governance, citizen participation in planning and the policies on

public participation in governance. Different initiatives at the institution of government are perceived to influence citizen participation in governance. These include: good will of the government through Operationalization and implementation of legal frameworks, communication, promotion of community capacity building; Personal factors are perceived to have influence on citizen participation in governance among them; age, gender, levels of awareness and education, religious beliefs and personal attitudes, distance to government offices; Among the Socio- cultural factors which may have an influence on affecting citizen participation are gender, religious beliefs.

The important role played by communication in the encouragement of good governance and citizens' participation is widely accept in the world over. In the developed economies a lot of emphasis in communication and the rule of law in governance. In these communities democracy entails the practice of participation and rights of citizen participation rather than being limited to electing representatives to be their mouthpies in the government. The establishment of participatory engagement gives the citizens a direct right to voice there wishes and expectations on their community, and participate in planning and decision making process.

Democratic governance in different societies may be hindered by the absence of citizens input. Thus public input and acting should be the checks and balance on the powers of public leaders. Decisions made by the public leaders are to be designed, implemented, scrutized and contested through public debates.

In the most of African communities, legal and policy question arises in the field of legal and policy on communication and information. Ways to plan and encourage more access to express their views and to communication channels should be included in the legal planning of democratic governance. Further the citizens need capacity building with the necessary knowledge so as to be able to effectively engage in discussion of issues in their community.

The central position of communication in the promotion of good and effective governance must be embraced by all sections of governments. To harvest positive outcomes in communication and dissemination of information, the leadership need to harness effective ways of passing and receiving information to and from the citizens. This will improve their decision making processes on governance. Furthermore, the leadership in turn can use communication mediums to create a positive outlook on their = governance and create a mechanism to get feedback between the government and citizens. The national government and the county governments should treat communication and information with the importance it deserves in governance. This can be achieved by intergrating of legal policies on communication and information in the national legal framework. Of importance is to make sure that these policies are put into operation at all levels of government.

The devolution constitution as it is commonly refered as provides for a devolution of powers from the central government to the lower government. This is a new experience to the Kenyan citizenry thus the need to internalize their responsibilities and participate effectively in governance. Its of great importance to creat awareness on the citizens rights and responsibilities as entrenched in Constitution. The devolution principle means that the people of Kenya have collectively gained more responsibilities and power to manage themselves. This will translate into more participation by citizens in the runnings of governance affairs state at all aspects of life; and require accountabilityon the leadership.

The Task Force on Devolved Governance (TFDG) placed a lot of importance to the role to be played by continuous civic education. For it to reach all citizens various actors, among them Civil Societies of all walks in life, have to be in play. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kenya have been effective in the awareness creation having adopted a multi-sectoral and thematic strategy. Various organization specialize on specific aspects of life in the community and especially in the marginalized groups. The curriculum applied in delivery of civic education have been evolving from time to time, being much dictated by then prevailing environment in all aspects of the community. The

civic education curriculum on the new outfit constitution, is yet to take a complete form, , but they will with time respond to the new stimuli in the environment.

Civil society have a way to automatically evolve to align itself in each situations whether transformed or totally new in provision of civic education. The area of focus will now be directed to implementation, with particular attention on ensuring that the process is redirected by the of the political elite. Currently civic education is are being carried out by undefined civil societies taking advantage of the yet to be occupied vacuum. Civic education in Kenya at this juncture of transition on governance, will serve to provide equip the citizens with knowledge on their rights and expectations of the constitutions on their part; enlighten them on the importance of their participation in totality of governance cycle and understand the benefits of their involvement in governance to the community. Citizen should understand that Civic educations is not only important and not limited to transitional period but also more critical in the post-constitution implementation phase especially where a conflictual referendum was adopted. Continuous education is required so as to reach all citizens and enlighten them on the provisions of the new constitution. Devolution is a new system to the citizens and they lack the experience with a new devolution system ushering in major changes in government layout and operations.

In the Kenyan situation, Civic education on devolution should not only be more available to all the citizens but continuous for a long period. The outcome of this may be seen as creating ownership in the implementation process in the citizens which in the long run foster social transformation. The information dessiminated through civic education should be in line and not conflitual with the basics of source of their curriculum namely the constitution and all other legislations. Summarily civic education should lead to an informed citizenry who will effectively participates in the runnings at all levels and own the whole process of implementation.



The environment within which civic education will be provided is very important in choosing the delivery methodology that will accommodate mediums of communication. The present advancement in technology gives a wide variety of mediums of communication which can be utilized to reach a large number of people, using minimal manpower, in a short duration and at a lesser cost among them online interactive questionnaires, websites among others. (Tusk Force Report on Devolved Governance, 2012)

Capacity building is applied to help development the levels of knowhow on a specific aspect to enable the concerned persons to meet their objectives effectively. The comparison of two projects with one placing a lot of importance on capacity building and the other not using any civic education shows the important position of capacity building in the success of community projects. In one organization, meetings to brainstorm, plan and set up policies are scheduled for one day. By the end of the one day the communities are expected to formulate proposals. This formulation process takes place in a situation where citizens are poorly equipped to effectively contribute in the planning resulting in poor policies. In the other scenario people are taken through a workshops preparation to enlighten them on what is expected of them while of to engaging in planning process. Their members are fully aware of what is expected of them during the planning process. The participating persons are confident and produce quality informed decisions. (IEA, 2006, Omolo, 2009).

In the Kenyan environment, leaders don't receive criticisms from the general public positively, as a feedback on their performance. This because such criticisms signals rejection by the electorate. On the other hand the citizens avoid openly criticizing the leader in fear of victimization. This is a great impediment to effective participation by most of the citizens and to meaningful accountability on the leadership. Consequently should also be taken through training on the benefits of positive criticisms to improving their leadership and in general governance.

## **2.6 Policy related challenges to Citizen involvement in Governance:**

Kenya in a drastic move shifted from its traditional centralized style of government to a devolved system. This shift was necessitated by the shortcomings that are commonly associated with centralized governments. In centralized governments often there exists administrative bureaucracies which breeds inefficiencies especially in the length of time taken to make and implement a decision, the chances of poor utilization of public funds is high with a lot of funds going into corrupt officials pockets, and the exclusion in the development processes of the less loud and lacking influence persons in the community. Initial attempts to decentralize were selectively done on specific aspects of government. These specific aspects and attempts lacked legal framework into the law. Further they marred by overlaps, duplication of functions and poor or no plans to involve the citizens contribution.

The New Constitution provides has legal backing foundation unlike the earlier attempts. Participation in governance can now be implementable in the now devolved county outfit. But scholars acknowledge that devolution is not without its risks. The central authority has a very crucial role to play in the success of devolved units from the planning and implementation and post implementation stages. why? Because If devolution rules and systems are not properly designed and implemented by the central authority, then it may result to poor governance and declining economic performance and may translate to transmission and duplication of the shortfalls of a central government to the sub-national units. Further central authority should show and act to have political will to cede specific powers to local authority and also be watchful on the devolved units to enforce participation of citizens on their governance. (Bohme, 1997, Omolo 2010). The central authority may weaken the performance levels of the lower authority by limiting the financial resources available to them yet in most cases the local authorities may not be in a position to raise enough revenue to effectively operate on (Blair, 1998). The advent of failure of devolution is oftenly witnessed in countries with dictatorial tendencies and ineffective opposition forces (Makumbe, 1998).

## **2.7 Individual Citizen related factors determining their Participation in Governance**

The new constitution has made provision for individual position in the participation in governance. Creations of specific forums for citizen participation are also enshrined in the document with guidelines on the role they should play. The most notable roles of these forums are convening consultative forums with the citizens, involving the public in choosing and vetting its members. The roles of these forums is to act as the channel used by the public to voice their views on governance. However the citizens have another channel of participation through community organizations and civil rights establishments.

Access to information is crucial as a right in its own regard and is also central to the functioning of democracy and enforcement of other rights. Without freedom of information, State authorities or agents can selectively release good news whilst withholding damaging information. Such climates then breed corruption and human rights violations can remain unchanged. To guard against such a climate any policy on devolution should provide for legislation that requires counties to adopt principles of maximum openness. As the ICJ (2007) points out, any information held by a public body should in principle be openly accessible. This is particularly in recognition of the fact that public bodies hold information not for themselves but for the public good.

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted the use of public choice theory and public value theory

### **2.8.1 Public Choice Theory**

The Public Choice Theory (PCT ) came into being with the backdrop in the economics environment. Its main attention is on how people make choices in their bid to choose on public services.. It equates public service delivery to a market-like competition. The public is seen as the buyer who wishes to purchase the best product in the market which is the best public service. (Lamothe and Lamothe 2009). In a market situation, any monopolistic possession of production power or of goods and services eventually results to slackened and inefficiency in service delivery management (Ostrom, 1971; Savas 2002).

To avoid this pitfall of monopoly in this case in political power, public institutions are out to choose diverse yet sustainable political products in the name of decentralization. (Savas 2002). There is a general agreement that better and diverse products and services are offered in a competitive environment. The public is placed to gains more as the beneficiary than the government who is the supplier in public service functions in the case of Implementation of this theory. Further the theory presents a situation where the citizen has the opportunity to choose the services offered to them. This call for participation on governance on the side of citizens. The central position of participation of citizens in governance may be explained by the core concept presented by this theory.

This theory therefore is used in this context to explain the position of public participation in governance in ensuring effective delivery of public goods and services. The theory has presented a core relational aspects in characteristics and good governance. the philosophy advanced by PCT may be utilized to demonstrated the citizens utilization of knowledge and resources to attain cost effective services from all the varied levels of government.

### **2.8.2 Public Value Theory (PVT)**

Public value theory assumes that services are provided in line with the public interest (Bozeman 2002). Public interest can be explained as the choice knowledgeable citizens will make for the best interest of the society. This theory may be used to explain the benefits which the citizens will reap by being enlightened to participate in governance and allowed to make the best choices for the benefit of the whole community.. This theory can be applied to make public institutions to respect the position public players and offer the best services to them (Bozeman 2002, Lippman 1955).

All efforts and attempts presently are planned and directed to the direction of achieving the best public interests, unlike in the past where public interests was not defined or planned for and in the case of trying to apply it was in colluding course with other community policies. (Staples and Dalrymple 2008; Stoker 2006 ). This recognition of embracing people interests in governance has had positive impacts especially to the

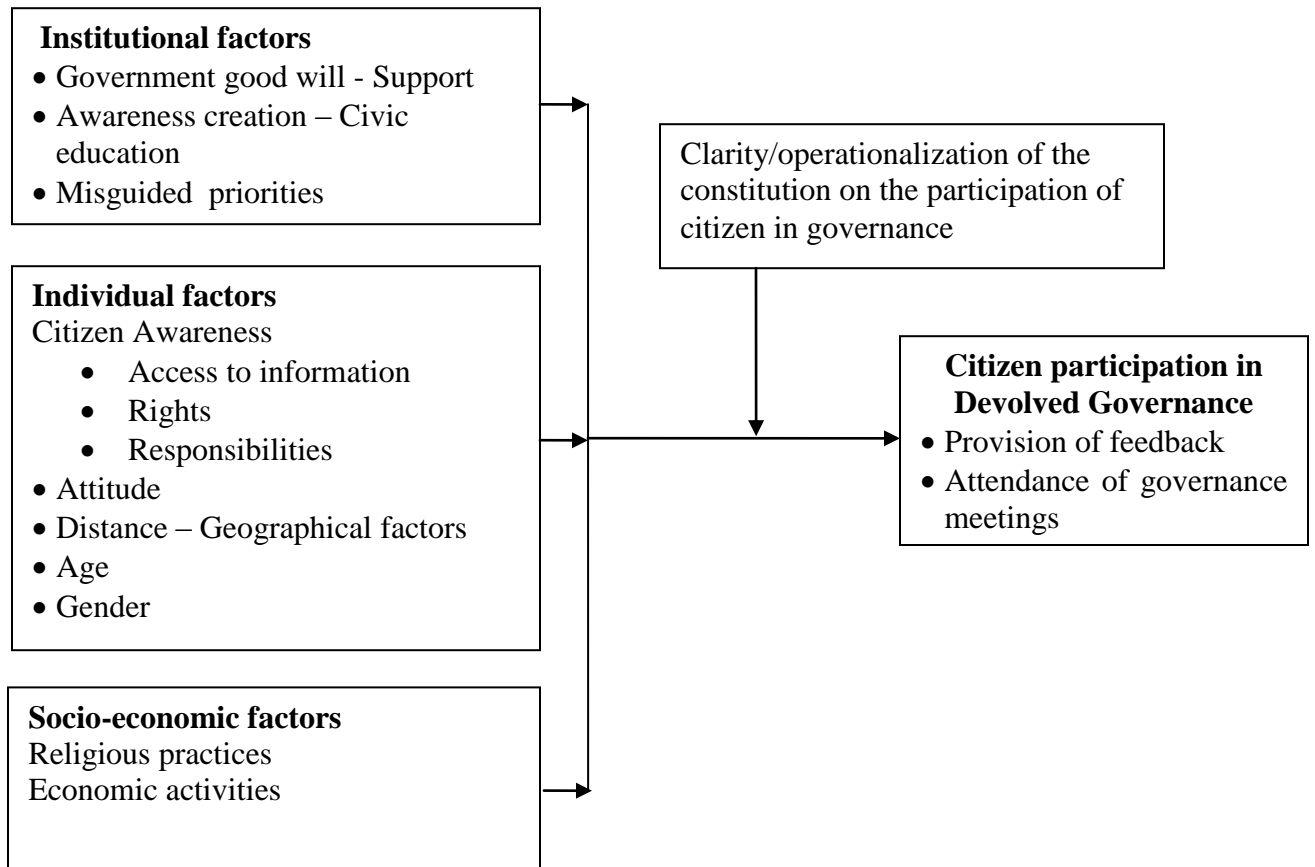
citizens. Quality governance, promoting transparency and participation of citizens has come to action.

Thus the application of the Theory of Public Value in governance and public participation may be interpreted that citizens performance can be successful through the application of quality management practices. Moore's (1995). Public value philosophy can be said to be the cause result of the change from the old public service delivery believe to the new incorporation of peoples choices and idea.

## **2.8 Conceptual Framework**

This section of conceptual framework is used to shows the interrelatedness of the study variables presented in the study. The independent variables for the study were: individual factors, institutional initiatives by the government and socio- cultural factors, while the dependent variable was citizen participation in devolved governance. The intervening variable for the study is clarity/ operationalization of the constitution on the participation of citizen in governance.

**Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework**



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY USED IN THE RESEARCH**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents in details the various scientific methods applied in the study in achieving the study objectives with emphasizes to research design, study population, sampling design and procedure, data collection instrument, data collection procedures and data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Exploratory research design was adopted for the study. Exploratory research is used to shed a light of a situation (Kothari, 2003; Yin 2003). Through exploratory research, researchers endeavour to come up with hypotheses about a situation. The design was adopted for the study as it involved collecting of data to enable the researcher to answer questions concerning the subjects in the study. This design therefore helped in assessing the determinants of citizen participation in governance in Machakos County.

#### **3.3 Study Location**

Machakos County was the location chosen for conduct of the study. Machakos County, it is among the 47 administrative counties in Kenya. Machakos consists of eight (8) administrative and political constituencies which are Machakos Town, Mavoko, Masinga, Yatta, Kangundo, Kathiani, Matungulu, and Mwalah with Machakos Town as the administrative capital of the county. The County is located approximately to the centre of Mombasa and Kisumu. It share borders with eight other counties namely Nairobi, Kiambu, Embu, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, Murang'a and Kirinyaga. Machakos County height above sea level ranges between altitude of 1000 - 1600 meters. It is estimated to have a Total Population of 1,098,584 persons and approximately three quarters of it being adult age. and occupies an area of 6,208 SQ. KM. The Population density is 177 persons per SQ. KM. The county has a cosmopolitan population although Akamba ethnic people are the original and dominant habitants of Machakos County. Its climate conditions ranges from the semi-arid savannah in the Athi-Kapiti plains, the Yatta plateau to the beautiful hilly

wet and cool regions of Mua hills, Kilimambogo, Kanzalu ranges among others. it has some tourist attraction sceneries and wonders located in different areas among them, the gravity defying area in iveti hill, the spatacular Yatta plateau, the animal game reserve of Kilimambogo to mention but a few. A number of hotels and other establishments ensure the region has a well-rounded hospitality industry. The County host varied economic activities namely rain based planting of drought-resistant crops like maize, beans sorghum, millet green grams and coffee crop growing and Cattle rearing. County is a host to The However, the County also plays host to trading activities especially due to its close proximity to Nairobi.

### 3.4 Target Population

The population of the study could be said to be the choosen group of individuals which are of concern to the study and possess one or more common characteristics. (Cooper 1996). The study targeted the members of the public population above 18 years of age in the whole Machakos County, the 40 members of the County assembly and 11 ministers in Machakos County Government. The population of Members of Machakos County Assembly (MCAs) is presented in the Table 3.1 .

**Table 3.1 Members of Machakos County Assembly**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Members of Machakos County Assembly</b>
Machakos Town	7
Mavoko	4
Masinga	5
Kangundo	4
Kathiani	4
Matungulu	5
Mwala	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>



**Table 3.2 Minister of Machakos County Government.**

<b>Members of the cabinet (Ministers)</b>		
<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

### **3.5 Sampling Technique and Sample size**

In this study employed the technique of stratified sampling which was used in grouping the population into constituencies. The researcher first divided the population systematically in stratas, then drew study samples from every stratum. By sampling from the strata, the researcher ensured that all the eight constituencies are represented in the study. (Coopers and Schindler ,2001)The logic of Sampling in qualitative research is not linked to obtaining a sample on the basis of whose characteristics generalizations to the general population can be made. The main considerations guiding sampling in qualitative research is to get participants who can provide both relevant and qualified information to help answer the research questions. As such the information to be gained takes precedence over the number of respondents to be included. For this reason, samples in qualitative research tend to be rather smaller compared quantitative research and are often arrived at purposively (Hansen, 2006; Bryman, 2008). Consequently, sampling for the study was by Purposive sampling procedure. Besides basing the sample on the sample size on the general practice, theoretical sampling may also be applied. Theoretical sampling refers to the point when the themes, stories and issues are recurring interviews and no new information or insight is being gained, thus has reached “saturation point” where the interviews may be stopped.

Considering the aims of the research, the different characteristics in the respondents and the logical considerations, this study was carried out in seven constituencies where one was used for piloting. A total of 182 participants were sampled for the study. For the Focus Group Discussions, the participants were identified with the guidance of the local leader, the chief who also organized the venue and security during the interviews. The

straight forward criteria given for identifying the participants was that one had to be an adult 18 years and above, male or female preferably equal in numbers and they were to originate from different locations in the constituency in order to get variety. 168 members of the public were targeted constituting if achievable equal number of men and women, and also persons living in urban and rural setting. For the Key Informant Interviews sample, 21 MCAs and 11 ministers comprising of representatives of all the areas of the County. The participants for this group was identified by request through the administration and voluntary basis by the members. This information is presented in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3: Sample size.**

<b>Constituency</b>		Sampled members of the public (Focus Group Discussions)		Sampled MCAs ( Key Informants Interviews)		Sampled Ministers	
<b>Town</b>	<b>Rural</b>	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	male
Machakos Town		12	12		1	1	
Mavoko		12	12	1	1		1
	Masinga	12	12	1			1
	Kangundo	12	12	1		1	
	Kathiani	12	12		1	1	
Matungulu		12	12	1			1
	Mwala	12	12		1		
<b>Total</b>		84	84	4	4	3	3

The sample for the 14 FGDs and 14 Key Informants interviews (had a total of 182 participants) comprised of both male and female who are residents and voters in the specific constituencies. A total of 14 FGDs were conducted in all the constituencies with varying gender configurations. Even though equal representation for both women and men was desired and planned for, this was almost realized in the 3 urban setting

constituencies but proved hard in four rural the setting constituencies. Efforts were made to include people with varying levels of education and age as well. We planned to have half of each gender from the constituencies range in age from 18-35 years while the other half was to be of 36 and above. However this was not realized as the 36 and above dominated. This is because it was not easy to get the exact age requirements given the dynamics of participation. 14 Key Informants interviews were planned with equal representation on gender in every constituency. This was not realized because it was conducted during week days when more men are involved in salaried employment. This enables more women than men to have opportunity to attend.

Table 3.4 Demographic characteristics of the focus group discussions.

Characteristic	Description	Numbers total	Rural	Urban
Age categories	18- 36 years	20	4	10
	36 & over	76	56	26
Sex	Female	51	40	20
	Male	45	20	16
Education	Primary	9	9	5
	Secondary	50	45	25
	College & above	37	6	6

### 3.6 Data Collection Methods

The study applied Key Informants interviews and Focus Group Discussions as main data collection techniques. Thus Interview guides and focus group discussions are the instruments for collection of primary data for this study. The data was hand written with the help of two notes takers, who were trained on notes taking techniques prior to commencement of the data collection exercise. The inclusion of Notes Takers in the exercise enabled the interviewer to concentrates on the interactions with the participants with no interruptions of notes taking and to avoid taking long time in the interview. Having the two notes takers increased the chances of recording all the information as it was said, without omission or leaving out.

### **3.7 Research instruments**

The researcher choose these research instruments because of their suitability and appropriateness to the study.

#### **3.7.1 Key informants interview schedules**

Interviews is the most important ways of acquiring data and may be defined as a two way conversation between the researcher and the respondent. (Yin ,2003)

Key Informants interview schedules were applied to gain data from MCAs and Ministers in Machakos County Assembly the individuals who can be considered to possess expert information. Interview is more favourable in collection of data from people rather than a method applying writing because people are usually willing to communicate orally than in writing.( Kerlinger, 1973). The interviews were conducted at the Machakos County assembly offices premises which provided quiet and private place very conducive for interviews.

#### **3.7.2 Focused group discussions**

The data gathering method of focus group discussion (FGD) which is semi structured in nature was applied. The purposively selected participants are brought together in order to discuss particular presented issues as set by the researcher (Kumar 1987).

Focused group discussions were held with members of the public in the seven constituencies. The groups consisted of between 6 - 12 people. Two focus group discussions were carried out in each of the constituencies targeted. The interviews were held at the chiefs/ Assistant Chiefs office. Due to lack of available office space, the sessions were mostly conducted under trees or on verandahs of buildings. This was to ensure privacy and also to avoid distractions. At Matungulu constituency, one of the FGD held at Tala Township, the interviewers had to content with a noisy environment due to the Chiefs Office close proximity to the main market area and interference by curious people. This necessitated pausing of the interview and using loud voices. The discussions addressed: the nature of citizen participation, government factors influencing participation and citizen factors influencing participation.

### **3.8 Piloting of Research Instruments**

To ensure good operation of the instruments to be employed in the real data collection exercise, the instruments of the study were tested in Yatta Constituency which was not included in the actual study. The researcher also sought expert opinion from the supervisors and from other professionals are well versed in research issues. This was to help to ascertain on the instruments validity of the content. The purpose of this pre-testing was to establish any weakness in the instruments of the study.

### **3.9 Data Collection Procedure**

In preparation to go to the field for data collection, the researcher as is the practice sought permission from her institution of learning in this case University of Nairobi as a greenlight to do the fieldwork. Appointments were made with the targeted leaders mainly Chiefs who the author identified as the gate keepers of the target group and the administrators at Machakos County Government to arrange for the dates for data collection. The researcher and her notes takers introduced themselves before the start of every encounter, briefly described the purpose of the study and generally informed the participants of its intended goals and benefits as outlined in the consent form document. The participants were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of the information they were providing. Thereafter, consent was sought from the participants. Once consent was granted, the participants were invited to feel free and to audibly discuss the issues at hand. The researcher and her assistants were careful not to appear to be aligned into any political party side which may shift the discussion to party related rather the issues at hand. The researcher administered the instruments to the respondents and were keen to accord the respondents ample time to respond to the questions. This respondents time to think of the questions asked and give their answers without being pressurized..

The approach adopted by the study -a semi-structured and open-ended approach- enabled the interviewees to discuss their experiences freely (Green & Thorogood, 2004). The team was also sensitive with regard to the use of the respondents' time. The team endeavored to take the shortest time possible with every participant or group of participants.

Each research assistant had a note book to note some of the striking issues and key emerging themes as well as their thoughts on the process. The principal researcher also kept a field notebook cum diary where the events of the day were summarized and thoughts on the research process, insights on the research findings, and new hunches and ideas were recorded. Other types of information gathered included the biographic data of the respondents as well as the signed consent forms.

Debriefing meetings were held at the end of each day to review the progress, to share thoughts on the overall process, to highlight any challenges and difficulties and to recommend any necessary adjustments. After the team had left the field of data collection, it would gather at location and review the activities of day. Each of the research assistants would share their experience as well as their impressions of the entire process for each single day. The implications for these experiences and impressions were discussed and used to inform the next day's exercise

The interview and FGD questions were mainly open-ended and fitted with appropriate probes to help generate information that could answer the questions of the study. Attention had been paid to devising alternative ways of phrasing questions to ensure clarity. In asking questions, it became evident that some items, even if thoroughly crafted and tested, was sometimes not instantly clear. The concepts which are new with the advent of the new constitution were somehow not easy for some respondents to grasp. To surmount these problems, the researcher and his assistants interpreted the questions in a way that came closest to the supposed position of the interviewee as to the requests of the study design. After the initial interviews, the general responses were emerging and these led the research team as to what to expect for various questions. Reference to these emerging themes help to clarify difficult questions to the participants. The researcher and the research assistants quickly adapted to these interpretations and would foresee the trouble spots and prepared for them in advance (Green & Thorogood, 2004).

### **3.10 Data analysis**

Primary data from the field was hand written with the help of notes takers. Analyzing primary data was done after every day's FGDs cleaned and eliminate errors made by both the participant and notes takers. I reconstructed the original comments, observations and feelings from the field notes every evening, after spending time in the setting. In most of the areas FGDs were conducted in the native Kamba dialect. As a native speaker of the language, I, the author personally transcribed the data into English, identifying and refining important concepts. The interview information was analyzed in a systematic way, whereby I established patterns, trends and relationships in the information gathered, and came up with useful conclusion and recommendations. Coding was done so as to organize and reduce research data into manageable and understandable summaries. The researcher applied manual methods which are hectic and takes long time compared to use of qualitative data analysis software due to financial constrain.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter is dedicated to presenting outcome findings of study. The study is purposed to assessing the determinants of citizen participation in governance based in Machakos County. The sample drawn of 182 respondents were gotten for the exercise (168 members of the public, 8 MCAs and 6 ministers) out of which 107 participated (including 96 members of the public, 6 MCAs and 5 ministers) giving a response rate of two thirds of the population. The basic data in this study is to be drawn from observations, discussion, the actual words of the participants reproduced.

As I prepared to go to the field for this assignment, a thought kept on crossing my mind. This was related to the utterances mainly made by some leaders during the promulgation of the new constitution; that the citizens should not bother reading the proposed draft of constitution, why?! Because the leaders had read and understood the contents of the constitution for the citizens! Thus either the contents of the constitution were good or bad, depending on the camp of either opposing or supporting it. So, have the citizens endeavored to understand the constitution or are they still relying on their leaders' knowledge?

The breakdown of this data is presented in the table 4:1 below.

**Table 4:1.Participants demographic representation of the study**

Characteristics	Description	public	MCAs	Ministers
Gender	Female	51	4	3
	Male	45	4	3
Age	18- 35 years	20	2	1
	36 & Above	76	6e	5
Location	Urban	36	4	3
	Rural	60	4	3
Education	Primary	9	0	0
	Secondary	90	1	0
	College & Above	8	7	6
voted in 2013	Female	48	4	3



	Male	41	4	3
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**Table 4.2 FGDs Composition based on constituency**

Constituency	FGD 1		FGD 2		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Machakos Town	4	3	5	2	14
Mavoko	4	3	5	3	15
Masinga	4	2	4	3	13
Kangundo	5	1	4	2	12
Kathiani	4	3	5	2	14
Matungulu	5	4	4	3	16
Mwala	4	2	5	1	12
Total	30	18	32	16	96

#### **4.2.1 Distribution of Respondents by Gender**

A total of 96 of the public were interviewed out of which 34 were male while 62 were female. As the participants tramped in to the venues of the meeting, it was evident that the female were more in number and punctual, a sizeable numbers arriving earlier than the set time. The trend of disparity in numbers of women and men attend these forums became more evident, and I continually sought the underlying reasons. I observed that the male participants were hesitant to contribute to this probe while the female counterparts were directing glances to them probably for direction before contributing. The researcher further encouraged them that the information was confidential, neither their names nor the information given will be recorded or given to their leaders. I read some fear most probably of victimization by the leaders or society. To this question, the participants gave factors which were positive to the society like the males being busy in employment engagements in urban centers. When posed with the same questions later in the interview other factors which I presume they felt were shameful, degrading in the society emerged. This was best summed up by a female participant in Matungulu. Sadly shaking her head she said “Most of us women are agreeable and keen to participate in such forums to learn the on-goings in our society. But we are sad about the levels of men involvement in illicit brews drunkenness, Munguuka and other indescribable unexplainable substances 24 hours day in day out. Most of the men living in our homes have become empty shells,

they don't recognize themselves leave alone to mind another person or forum like this, which they will only be a source of disruption".

Thus more women would participate in county governance matters more than men given the situation described.

However the County government 6 MCAs and 5 ministers participated. A balance of gender was realized with 3 male and 3 female among the MCAs. 4 male ministers and 2 female ministers were interviewed. This was possible as the interviewer had requested for balance in gender participants and they were readily available in the county offices.

#### **4.2.2 Distribution of Members of the Public by Age.**

Out of the 96 members of the public interviewed, only 20 participants were below the age of 35 years with the remainder 76 being above 36 years of age. The reasons advanced by participants in all the FGDS were that Majority of the youth are majorly under employment or in Colleges making them unable to attend during working days, and that the rest are either involved in drunkenness or disinterested with societal matters thus the low turnout. They have left the burden of development matters to the aged generation. One participant in Matungulu FGD mentioned that majority of female at this youth age bracket may not be able to attend such forums because they had young babies to look after and are not privileged to have the service of house helps/ nannies. A male participant in Kathiani mentioned that the youth especially male, would have attended if they knew there would be money handouts. In the FGD in Masinga, two youth participants said that many people are disinterested in attending this interview session and any other forums because earlier conveners of forums give them fake promises which were never fulfilled, and use them to acquire money from foreigners. 'They call us, waste our time take us photos which they use to gain money from the mzungus'

2 of the MCAs participants were in the youth bracket of below 35 years while 4 were above 36 and above. This may be attributed to the requirements of the new constitution and that the youth are now running for elective posts, actively participating in democratic processes. For the ministers' participants only one was below 36 years while 5 were 36

and above years which may be said to be representation of all ages in the executive positions of the county.

#### **4.2.3 Distribution of Members of the Public by Location**

Trans- passing from one constituency to another in the vast Machakos County, I never failed to notice the difference in many physical and developmental aspects which would have impacts either negatively or positively on the citizens participation in the county governance; in climatic conditions thus involvement in varied economic activities which also means varied levels of earnings, from the green coffee farms in Kangundo, Kathiani, Matungulu, the dry savannah shrubs of Mwala and Masinga to the sprawling urban setup of part of Mavoko. ; in infrastructure establishments e.g. constituencies with many all-weather and tarmacked roads to others with more cattle track like roads than any other which in a way related to the Modes of Transport with many of the regions of Masinga, Yatta and Masinga utilizing Bicycles, beasts of burden and motorcycles constituencies use vehicles. From the numbers of respondents in this study, both the rural citizens and urban citizens were equally interested in participating in forums affecting their society. Considering that only 3 constituencies could be termed to have an urban population, Out of the 96 respondents 36 respondents were from urban setting while the rest 60 were from rural setup. The urban participants are comparatively more than the rural participants, indicating that the urban population is keen on participating in forums than their rural counterparts. The participants from rural setting indicated that they have to walk for long distances to attend county government forums while the urban based participants with the use of readily available vehicles, travel faster and for short distances. I observed that the rural participants though punctual came in panting, smelling of sweat and with dusty feet an indication of brisk and may be long walk. Apparently the urban participants looked clean, smelling fresh.

The members of the county government interviewed were of the opinion that urban citizens are keener on participating in county governance matters more than their rural counterparts. One Minister who seemed so conversant with the new constitution and governance matters, and also being a lawyer by profession was of the opinion that the

difference in participation can be attributed to factors like; distance and transport challenges in the rural areas as well as poverty level difference which he said is higher in the rural areas. He further explained that rural folks don't have a daily or weekly source of finance like the urban citizens. Thus may have the challenge of footing transport costs to attend governance forums.

#### **4.3 Nature of citizen participation in Devolved County Governance**

This section presents the findings on how members of the public participate in County governance. The researcher endeavoured to assess the levels of understanding of the participants on the topic. Did they know ways they used to participate in the earlier constitution? Personally I could only remember the voting and attendance to Barazas which at one time in late 1980s were mandatory to attend, with Provincial Administrators coercively mobilizing citizens. Apparently Barazas was the only form of participation known to the participants in the old constitution. A light moment which worked the group to tearful laughter was experienced in Masinga FGD as an elderly male participant narrated how a chief struggled to catch his only two chickens over money meant for “president’s Harambee” in their area. A participant sought to clarify from us if these harambees were a form of participation in governance!

Thus participants were to suggest ways in which they thought people could participate in County governance. The following ways were suggested by the general citizens’ participants; by voting the leaders they want; by attending Barazas / seminars organized by the county government and choosing representatives to developmental committees. The Ministers and the MCAs interviewed suggested further ways of participation mainly as outlined in the constitution among them; attending consultative meetings , inspection of the County books of accounts, lounging complains on matters they feel are not well addressed and attending county parliamentary proceedings. The list of ways of participation suggested by the participants indicated that they were not fully knowledgeable on the responsibility of participation in the new constitution. The citizens are still basing their roles on the old constitution which of course was in operation for a

long time. The comment of one male participant from Masinga FGD is like a summary of the other participants' narrow perspective on how they view participation. He said

“When we vote the honorable members to the parliament, they are supposed to represent us, built us roads, help us in our harambees then come another election year we either elect them back or reject them if they were not of help to us”.

When questioned on whether the citizen of the county participate in county governance, The Ministers and the MCAs indicated to the affirmative but indicated that the participation was low and limited which they attributed to limited knowledge of the citizens on how to participate. One female Minister explaining the limited knowledge on means of participation, advanced that majority of the citizen have not read the new constitution and civic education to the citizen had not been fully utilized. The mood at this juncture was one of resignation, one raising eye brows, another raising his shoulders; gestures indicating that the matters were beyond their powers. From all these and their talk, I read that the elected persons are feeling victims, cornered, in between two hard places. The government expects them to implement, represent and educate the people they represent yet little or no money is given to roll out the civic education while on the other side the citizens are demanding for them service as enshrined in the new constitution.

In the FGDs the participants were asked whether they voted in the last general election. All except two had participated in voting exercise. The reasons advanced by the two who never voted was that there no need to vote, as all the leaders voted in end up being corrupt, high headed and disappear until the next election season. In one of the FGDs in Mwala, the participants enquired whether we were affiliated to or who (Member of Parliament) we were working for. The reason being that the immediate former Member of Parliament and the present Member of Parliament were in competition to please the citizenry in preparation for election in 2017. All the FGDs were of the consensus that most of the citizens participate in the voting exercises, thus the levels of voting in the general election could be said to be very high. When probed further why they dedicatedly

participate, all FGDs indicated that they view it as the only tool they can use to uproot inefficient leaders. This is an indication that most of the participants participated in the general election which is a very important aspect of governance involving choosing of the right leadership. Of the dissenting view, a female participant indicated that she never voted, as it was a waste of time and energy. She reasoned that voting may bring in a new person to power but all the voted leaders “behave like they are of the same mother’ they behave the same. Thus voting brought no change on leaders’ qualities and was not beneficial directly on their lives.

Before enacting and implementing projects and other matters of public concern, the County Government is required to seek the views of the general public. Half of the participating groups were aware of the existence of such forums and half of them had participated in the consultative forums. The half who had participated had accidentally accessed the information of their existence and learnt of their importance through participating in them. One participant in Tala contributing on why they never participated in county governance forums mentioned that the county government officials keeps them in the dark so that the citizens remain ignorant consequently they wouldn’t be knowledgeable to question the officials corruption tendencies.

An overwhelming majority of the participants were not aware and had never participated in examination or scrutinizing of Accounts of the County Government. It was a totally new idea to them, and voiced that the county government officials had never sensitized them on it. Furthermore most of them indicated that they had never read the new constitution to learn on their responsibilities as citizens. When probed further on whether they will participate in scrutinizing of accounts and documents of the county government in the future, participants in the FGDs were hesitant indicating that they lacked the capacity. A member of FGD in Machakos reasoned that scrutiny of accounts should be the responsibility of the educated citizens especially in accounting and of the central government who are the source of all the finance.

All the participants in all the FGDs showed possession of knowledge on and had attended Barazas. This is attributable to the fact that Barazas had been in existence for

decades; it's through the same forum the government used to communicate to the citizens and especially through the Provincial Administration. Majority of the participants indicated appreciating and gaining much knowledge from information passed through Barazas forum.

In the initial stages of this section, officials of the county government showed some hesitation in responding to the question. Probably they had never been interviewed on the topic. All the MCAs participants had voted in the last general election because it is one of the prerequisites of being elected. The 8 Ministers participated in the election bearing that for one to be nominated ministerial position, he/she has to be a keen participant of the on goings of both the County and politics.

In interviews with MCAs and Ministers of the County Government, they were asked to mention whether members of the public in Machakos County participate in Governance. Out of the 8 MCAs and 6 Ministers interviewed, 3 MCAs and 4 Ministers mentioned that the citizens' participation according to the new constitution in County governance is average. This was attributed to the fact that the new constitution was on the foundation stage and required more time and finances to build the capacity of the citizens. The officials were like confirming that the members of the public do not fully participate in County governance.

The MCAs and Ministers were asked to mention the nature of the participation of the members of the public in County governance. they mentioned: views and opinions of the members of the public are sought for by the County governance and adopted, there is presence of representatives of the members of the public in ward governance committees, citizens are part and parcel of the development teams spearheading governance in the ward, they form part of the independent bodies who foster the views of the public, attending regular seminars/meetings to understand the issues affecting the members of the public and through participation in budgeting and formulation of policies.

#### **4.4 Institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance**

This section presents the findings on institutional related factors influencing the participation of the members of the public in governance. For citizens to effectively participate in county governance, citizens need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities and acquiring knowhow on how to implement these responsibilities. To achieve these goals ,Capacity building needs to be done.

##### **4.4.1 Initiatives by the County Government to ensure Public participation**

We sought to establish the initiatives by the County government aimed at creating awareness on public participation from the MCAs and Ministers. From the interviews they mentioned the following: 6 six of the Ministers and four of the MCAs mentioned having organized at least 5-7 civic education forums for the last three years since their election, and which they rated as being very effective in positively improving public participation in Governance. Probed why few forums were organized, all the MCAs and Ministers pointed to lack of enough finance to support the exercises. One female minister mentioned that they had not yet customized the National curriculum to the County level to easily use in civic education in the county. She pointed out that the new constitutions requirements were on the foundation stage with so many areas to set up. And that the available resources were being directed to wanting situations like hospitals, schools and infrastructure.

On strengthening communication networks, All the Ministers and MCAs interviewed indicated to having employed the use of local radio stations/media for awareness campaign especially to create awareness to the general public on their responsibility of participation on the County governance. In all the FGDs, the participants responded positively to frequently listening and acquiring county information from the local Kamba radio stations of Musyi FM, Mangelete FM, Mbaitu FM. However only one minister and one MCA had attempted to employed proper processing and tracking of information generated by public. Both rated it as not an effective mode of raising and encouraging participation in governance. All the MCAs and Ministers acknowledged that most of



these methods of encouraging public participation are very effective but the impeding factor was finances.

I find it important to mention this at this juncture. While enjoying a light moment with the MCAs after the interview process, one of the MCA said that the county government and specifically the Governor may not have interest in awareness creation which may have negative effects thus jeopardizing his future re-election but allocated all the finances available to visible development projects like roads, classrooms and lighting. This will serve as campaigning come the next election.

#### **4.4.2 Effectiveness of awareness creation strategies by the County government**

In interviews with MCAs on the effectiveness of the awareness creation strategies employed by the County government, majority of the respondents 17 mentioned that they were fairly effective, 6 mentioned that they were very effective while 2 mentioned that they were less effective.

Those who mentioned that the strategies were fairly effective explained that the strategy had created awareness among citizen on the importance of their participation, that members of the public have come to know and participate in governance through seminars and training programmes organized by the County government, creation of awareness has improved turn up by the members of the public during meetings, many members of the public are now well acquainted with their rights and that it has improved coordination of activities within the County. On the other hand, those who mentioned that awareness creation was less effective explained that the exercise has not been properly and effectively done to make more members of the public become aware of their role in governance. They were of the opinion that more appropriate ways should be adopted in the creation of public awareness.

In interviews with the members of the public on the effectiveness of awareness creation strategies by the County government, the general view by the FGDs was that the

seminars and trainings called by the County government are few in number in a year, short and they are not publicized thus majority of the citizens are not informed.

In all the FGDs, the participants agreed that the use of vernacular radios is an effective means of promoting awareness citizens. The citizens feel that the county government was not committed to awareness creation, or building their capacity due the vested interests. That an ignorant population will easy to control. In case of a forum for creation of awareness, the official employ technical language making the all process vague, that not much information delivered to the public domain. Those who mentioned that they were effective explained that many people have become more aware of their role in governance, keeping the public abreast on the development projects within the County and that opinion and views of the members of the public are heard.

#### **4.4.3 Institutional factors influencing public participation in Governance**

Walking down memory time, a time when the “rule of 210” not long ago, when a chief had powers to arrest you, trial you through ‘a Kangaroo court’. Those rules and Laws were ruled out by the new constitution. The big question lingering in my mind is, Has the Citizens mindset moved from when the government institution had those iron fist powers, to the citizens having powers to hold them accountable? On the other hand, the institutional factors enhancing the participation of the members of the public included: Transparency which improves public confidence hence willing to participate in governance, use of constituency/ward offices for purposes of channeling information relating to governance services and legislation policies, enhanced collaboration structures between MCAs and public, improved system structures for proper public participation, Government involve NGOs and other civil activists to reach the public.

In FGDs with the members of the public on the institutional factors hindering the public participation, the participants mentioned the following as the factors hindering their participation in Governance. The public participants felt that some institutional arrangement/formats should be updated to allow public participation at all levels. In all the FGDs the participants mentioned that they were confused on which office addresses

what in the county. A participant at Kathiani Township FGD gave an example of a land issue she was facing with the family. She said she didn't know whether to address it through the area MCA, the Chief/ Assistant Chief, lands Department or the police. In FGDs in Kathiani and in Mwala the question of why the Provincial Administration was still in operation and yet it was to be scrapped off as in the new constitution was raised. There was a general indication that the lack of clarity on the arrangement and responsibility of institutions hindered citizens on their participation in governance matters.

Of great concern was the corruption levels and its great negative effect to the participation of citizens in governance. This ranges from misappropriation of funds, Nepotism to favoritism in development of some areas. Corruption was mentioned as the greatest hindrance to participation. In the FGDs the participants felt that most of the forums organized by the county government were money eating channels. One male participant at Mavoko FGD agitate tone remarked ' We don't want to be used as rubber stamps for people to 'eat' money, all these leaders are the same, they promise so much during election but deliver nothing later when elected, the leaders are elected poor but grow very rich overnight'. To the participants their participation was not for their benefit but for the leaders organizing. In Masinga FGD in tone a hush, a member pointed that all the people appointed to the development committees were friends and relatives of the leader.

One common issue raised in almost all the FGDs we interviewed, was that the leaders had no time addressing serious matters affecting citizen but serving their own interest. Thus the leaders prefer the use of channels that benefit them directly and neglect those which would be beneficial to citizens. The citizens were of the opinion that they would prefer if the government would set up formal procedures to host public views, set up proper channels for feedback, and involve/ seek the citizens' views. Furthermore the leaders in County government were inaccessibility to the public.

I encouraged further discussion with the citizen participants to establish their understanding on the topic and to get suggestions of further ways of strengthening citizen and county government cooperation. Though without a specific point, the participants believed there should be varied mechanisms for cooperation between public participation units and MCAs. They feel that institutions should be flexible to accept divergent opinions, providing space for involvement of their views/inputs and more importantly accord them powers to be consulted before implementation of issues affecting them. Civic Education though still not widely used by the county government was mentioned in all the FGDs as the most effective tool enabling them to be aware and participate in governance matters.

The FGD in Matungulu pointed that close cooperation between some MCAs and them has enhanced their participation in the county governance. They gave the example of Katine MCA who they praised for consulting members in identifying development projects, encouraged democratic electing of representatives to development committees and was available for consultation by citizens.

#### **4.5 Individual factors influencing participation in devolved governance Members of the Public**

In interviews with FGDs on the factors influencing their participation in governance, the following factors were established: Poverty was mentioned as a major hindering factor to individual's participation in County governance. A participant in Masinga mentioned that they even lack money to travel to where meetings are being held, and moreover they live from hand to mouth which requires they work for food every day. In the FGD in Mwala, Siathani Market a participant expressed fear in even attending meetings because they may be political party 'Kamukujis' (illegal Meetings) which may be dispersed by GSUs police leading to them being beaten senseless and tear gassed. This implies that they are not aware of the change of government regimes and the new constitution.

Communication barriers were also a factor which was mainly presented by many of the participants. When citizens attend many of the forums, they are required to express

themselves in Lugha ya Taifa (Kiswahili) which they are not confident in expressing themselves in. Moreover most of the documents are written in English which not all can read and comprehend, thus they opt not to attend. The FGD in Tala Matungulu Constituency a participant pointed that county organized seminars are conducted during the weekdays when majority of the citizens are in the places of employment. Only a few people can find a gap in their busy schedules to attend. There was a general view that participating in any of the awareness forums was a way of enhancing political careers of the people in power rather than for the citizens own good. This is a strong indicator of the citizens' lack of confidence on the county leadership, inconsistency in attending vital meetings and low level of education.

I had low expectations on getting a meaningful feedback on the County representative's individual factors hindering them from encouraging public participation. Would they freely talk about their underbelly? Apparently, they proved me wrong. In interviews with MCAs and Ministers, they mentioned the following factors as individual factors hindering them from encouraging public participation: An MCA pointed that some of his colleagues are driven by self-interest but not service to the people. They dedicatedly pursue what directly benefits them. A Minister pointed that political differences pose a challenge whereby some leaders only respect decisions or act on that which benefits or emanates from their clan leaders, political parties.

#### **4.6 Socio-cultural factors influencing participation in devolved governance**

General belief and expectation is that regions which encompassed white man ways of life especially education had less demeaning cultural burdens while the levels of illiteracy are to be low. Against the grain of the afore stated myth, the socio-cultural factors influencing public participation, members of the public mentioned the following of the influencing participation in county governance: That a sizeable number of the citizens were illiterate thus they are unable to read the bulletins, notices, handed by the County government. That the aged experience challenges of either travelling to the county offices or attending government organized meetings. A woman participant at Machakos town FGD, whose honest and knowledgeable contribution was supported and echoed by

many other participants had this to say’ ‘ most of us women who are married and not formally employed have to seek permission and funding from our husbands to attend any meeting whether political, social or economic in nature. Furthermore most of these meetings county government forums are conducted in Either English or Swahili which we understand but are unable to talk fluently. This makes us to shy away. If a forum has financial benefit, the leaders and organizers only inform and invite their family members, friends and their political supporters’.

One of the participants in Mwala pointed that she only attends the meetings approved by the husband. Another participant in Masinga mentioned that most of the men are working in the major cities leaving only women, children and the elderly in the rural areas. This she says is a reason why there is a gender imbalance in attendance in county forums. She further pointed that majority of the elderly are sickly and weak to effectively participate in county matters. In the entire FGDs language barrier was pointed out as a barrier. English and Kiswahili are mainly used in conducting county matters. Yet majority of the citizens are not confident using them.

MCAs and Ministers participants mentioned the following: Men hinder their wives from not participating. They argue that it’s a waste of time which could be spend doing other beneficial chores for the family. They decried the illiteracy levels in the citizens. A Minister participant pointed out that many people have the educational certificates but they have run out of practice that they are illiterate; they are unable to effectively communicate especially where English and Kiswahili are applied. He painted a grim picture of the poverty levels among majority of the citizens. The citizens earn very little just to enable them to live from hand to mouth. In some cases they rely on government and NGOs food handouts (Mwolio). Their daily priority is to get food for the day on the table.

The participants were requested to suggest ways of improving public participation in governance in the county. The following suggestions were identified: eradication of poverty through initiation of development projects and creation of jobs, encouraging public participation on governance by incorporating their views, community policing to

enhance security especially during the night, holding more of public awareness campaigns and seminars and the use of local language or interpreters, ensuring efficient flow of information from MCAs office to grassroots, proper processing and tracking of information, introduction of more independent bodies for evaluation of public participation such as through assessments, the leaders to stem out tribalism and nepotism educate the society on social barriers like sexual discrimination, sensitize public on importance of all inclusive views, employing human resource required for effective delivery of services, creation of awareness through the local language media, enhancing checks and balances and separation of powers for proper accountability to public, facilitation of public workshops and civic education

MCAs and Ministers recommended that: accountability on the side of County Officers should be improved which will lead to participation of both the officers and citizens in government activities, the public members should be encouraged to make use of local media channels to get information, improvement of County development programmes hence creation of jobs, inclusion of other educative and informative ways like use of bill boards advertisements to capture more citizens, involving the public in decision making during participation, organizing for outreach programs where the concerns of the members of the public could be sought for and solved not swept under the table, introduction of a more aggressive approach to seminars, and encouraging more NGOs, CBOs in the community, closing the gaps between the leaders and public to function as one entity.

#### **4.7 Description, and rating of the constituencies in Machakos County on public participation in the County Governance.**

Machakos County is made of eight constituencies which have varied and different geographical location, economic and climatical conditions. This study covered all the eight constituencies. Basing the rating on the interview experience, the author thus seeks to compare the constituencies in terms of participation in Governance matters of the County. In all the eight constituencies of the Machakos County a great distinction was

evident in the levels of participation; the variation was also evident in the varied factors influencing participation played in every constituency.

Below is Table 4: shows the authors rating on her view of the performance of each county consideration on the levels of participation on the county Governance.

**Table 4:13 comparison and ranking of the 8 constituencies**

Constituency	Ranking
Machakos Town	1
Matungulu	2
Kangundo	3
Mavoko	4
Kathiani	5
Yatta	6
Mwala	7
Masinga	8

**Machakos town-** it is situated to the East of the County and is the host to the County headquarters. It possesses a large cosmopolitan urban population, and an equally large rural population. The climatic condition is cool and wetter on the mountainous western region of Mua, Iveti hills and hot and dry on the other regions thus support varied economic activities like both large and small scale farming, tourism and trade among others. The road network is better developed than all the other constituencies. Poverty level is low in comparison to others and has a history of an educated and politically enlightened population.

During the study it was evidently that they were aware of their responsibility in and indicated more participation in County governance.

**2. Matungulu-** This constituency is situated to the west of the larger Machakos County. It has several urban area the most notable being Tala Township and Nguluni. It possesses both rural and a cosmopolitan urban population. It borders Nairobi County to the south Westerly side and there exists an historical connection especially trade between them.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of this region is dry notably the vast Koma region. The north region of Katine and Muka Mukuu has rich soils and higher rainfall thus support farming of food stuff and coffee..



However the region is engaged in varied economic activities among them farming both large and small scale, mining of building stones and trade. Its road network is averagely developed. The poverty level in this area is average in comparison to the other constituencies; consequently the area has a large population which is historically politically enlightened. The levels of participation were deemed to be higher in comparison to the other six constituencies.

**Kangundo** – This constituency is centrally situated in the larger Machakos County and its major economic activity is coffee farming thanks to its rich red soils and higher rain fall than all the other constituencies. It used to be the earlier Kangundo Division headquarter and has a lot of amenities which include a level four hospital, a court, equipped government offices among others. Its road network is averagely developed which makes movement easier. Poverty level is average and the education levels are high and the population is politically enlightened thus their levels of participation is comparatively good.

**Mavoko**- it is situated to the south of the county and mainly a cosmopolitan urban population in Kitengela, Athi River, Mulolongo and Syokimau but a rural population in Lukenya. The road network is more developed compared to the rest of the county. Its economic activities include farming especially along the Athi river, mining of building materials, has many industries and processing Zone. Though the majority of the population is politically aware, they lack the time due to employment to get involved in Governance matters.

**Kathiani**:- Its centrally located in the larger Machakos County. With it's mainly mountainous area, the region engages in farming. It has remarkably small urban population around Kathiani Township. The road network is below average developed and the poverty levels notably higher than the other four afore mentioned. Evidently from the study, half of its population is averagely aware of its responsibilities to the governance matters, thus participation to the County government is also average.

**Yatta :-** Its situated to the west of County and borders both Kiambu and Muranga to the west. It possesses an average urban population around Matuu and the bigger portion is rural. The road network is mainly average and all weather usable. The levels of education and political enlightenment are also average. The area is mainly hot and dry relying mainly on rain for farming. A small section along the Yatta channel is involved in irrigation farming. The population is poor and for a long time has relied on NGOs support and government donations for survival. My take is they have been exposed to many unfulfilled promises thus they believe involvement in County governance matters is for them to be used as rubber stamps for the leaders to acquire money.

**Mwala:-** It's also centrally located in the Machakos County. It's climatically a dry area and its farming activities are perennially rain based. The social amenities are poorly developed and the roads are also poor save for the first tarmac road which was done three years ago. The level of education, political enlightenment is low. Majority of the youth and educated populace have abandoned the area for towns leaving the women, the old and children in the area. The urban population is around Mwala and Siathani regions. During the FGDs they indicated that much of their time was used in seeking for water both domestic and for their animals and food. Consequently they have little time left to get involved in County governance.

**Masinga-** Geographically it is situated to the North West of the County. Climatically its hot and very dry which limit arming to during rainy seasons and grazing. Though the Masinga dam is located here, they are not permitted to use the water for irrigation. The poverty levels are the highest in comparison to all the other constituencies. From the contact during the study, the levels of awareness are low and thus also the participation in governance matters is wanting. Their main valid reasons are the distance from the County headquarters, their state of the roads and lack of information among others.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This purpose of this study was to bring to light the determinants of citizen participation in governance in Machakos County. The study used for guidance the following specific objectives: to seek the nature of citizen participation in devolved County governance, to find out the institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance, to determine the individual factors influencing participation in devolved governance and to establish the socio-cultural factors influencing participation in devolved governance.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings of the Study**

This section dedicates to present the outcome of the study and they are presented below:

##### **5.2.1 Nature of citizen participation in devolved County governance**

On the participation on devolved governance, the study found that all the 14 FGDs interviewed had participated in County Governance activities in varied ways among them; participated in development meetings, consultative forums and building committees spearheading improvement on acquisition of social facilities and in Barazas which were used to pass information concerning the county; electing members of development committees; participating in national elections; taken part in seminars and clinics touching on county government awareness and had heard messages educating them on the County through the local vernacular radio stations. They gave the following reason which hinder them not to fully participate in the county Governance; lack of information on occurrences of these forums like seminars, lack of finances to travelling to the headquarters to attend settings, lack of time as they are involved in employment and fear borne out of ignorance of brutality by security forces like in yester years,

Basically, members of the public in Machakos County participate in governance through: giving their views and opinions, electing and presence of representatives of the members of the public in ward governance committees, they are part and parcel of the development teams spearheading governance in the ward, they form part of the independent bodies

who foster the views of the public, holding regular seminars/meetings to understand the issues affecting the members of the public and through participation in budgeting and formulation of policies.

### **5.2.2 Institutional factors influencing citizen participation in devolved governance**

On the creation of awareness among the public, the Ministers and the MCAs mentioned that there were initiatives for making the public aware of ways to engage in County Governance such as: Organizing civic education, strengthening communication networks, use of local stations/media for awareness campaign, holding regular assemblies to enlighten the members of the public, proper processing and tracking of information generated by public, ministers adopt tailor approaches to public participation to suit different stakeholders, new legislation to bridge gap between ministers, MCAs and public and initiation of governance council to facilitate public involvement on affairs of governance. Even though these initiatives were there for creating awareness, many of them were found to be fairly ineffective as indicated by 2/3rds of the participants.

The institutional factors enhancing the participation of the members of the public in governance included: Transparency in conducting County matters which improves public confidence hence willing to participate in governance, use of constituency/ward offices for purposes of channeling information relating to governance services and legislation policies, enhanced collaboration structures between MCAs and public, improved system structures for proper public participation, Government involve NGOs to reach the public and the constitution provide for public participation. On the other hand, the institutions hindering public participation of the public included: Ignorance, outdated structures in government, poor security in the County, playing politics in County matters, some institutional arrangement/formats should be updated to allow public participation at all levels, some institutional arrangements do not embrace public involvement in access of information and decision making, those in authority favoring their individuals/ corruption, leaders have no time addressing serious matters affecting citizen, lacking formal procedures to host public views, lack of proper channels for feedback and

association of public inputs, institutions do not take into account issues related to diversity and lack of principles of democracy/transparency and accountability.

### **5.2.3 Individual factors influencing participation by citizens in devolved governance as presented by Members of the Public**

Individual factors influencing the participation of members of the public in governance included: poverty, insecurity, lack of time and interest, communication barriers, lack of confidence to participate in the development of the county, lack of sufficient time to attend seminars due to the fact that seminars are conducted during weekdays when most of them are in employment stations, being left out on decision making, those who are not part of the elected teams keep off important meetings, lack of confidence on the county leadership, inconsistency in attending vital meetings and low level of education.

The individual factors of MCAs and Ministers hindering public participation on governance, they mentioned the following: self-interest because they do not want to serve citizens instead they want to serve themselves, political differences results whereby some only respect decisions that emulates from their clan leaders, a perception that they are being sidelined on decision making on important issues creates a room for little concern on participation, Leaders do not involve the public in decision making, members of the public feel that they are being used as rubber stamp for political agendas, lack of trust from leaders especially in handling County finances, politicizing leadership, inaccessibility to leaders and political alienation.

### **5.2.4 Socio-cultural factors influencing participation in devolved governance**

The socio-cultural factors influencing public participation included: poor distribution of resources, poverty, illiteracy, age barriers, public awareness, lack of time to participate, corruption/inefficiency among some stakeholders, political biasness and improper coordination, evaluation and monitoring of activities. Other factors included: unaccountable leadership, inaccessibility to leaders when faced with challenges, selfish leaders who only cheer politicking not performing, women not allowed to participate by husbands, illiteracy, language barrier, too much clanism and nepotism hindering

participation, poor health, insecurity, poverty, gender imbalance in the representation in forums, insufficient number of NGOs standing in the gap for the public, pursuing own interest by leaders and unemployment.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

From the information gathered in the study, the following conclusions can be presented. that members of the public in Machakos County participate in County governance in the following ways: participating in development meetings, consultative forums and building committees spearheading improvement on acquisition of health facilities. The study also concludes that institutional factors such as outdated structures, poor security, corruption, tribalism and nepotism, bad governance, continuous development issues, leaders have no time addressing serious matters affecting citizen, lacking formal procedures to host public views and lack of proper channels for feedback and association of public inputs. The study further concludes that individual related factors such as poverty, lack of time and interest, communication barriers and lack of confidence on the county leadership hinder their participation in governance. The study finally concludes that socio-cultural factors such as: poor distribution of resources, poverty, illiteracy and age barriers influence the participation of the public in public governance.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

The researcher has come up with the following recommendations drawn from the findings:

The study recommended that more awareness be created among the members of the public. This will encourage their participation in governance as they will know the importance of participation and ways by which they can participate.

The study also recommends that County government should be accountable for the County resources by eliminating corruption, tribalism and nepotism. This will change the attitude of the people towards participating in governance as it will reflect true and fair allocation of resources and job opportunities.

The study further recommends that members of the public should change their attitude towards participation in governance and create time within their busy schedules. Their participation will allow the incorporation of their views for the betterment of lives.

The study finally recommends that members of the public should be allowed to participate in governance without discrimination based on gender. This will encourage general public participation thus ensuring effective governance and development aimed at improving the lives of the public.

### **5.5 Recommendations for areas of further research**

The study was only limited to one county of Machakos and to only assess the determinants of citizen participation in governance. The researcher therefore recommends that another study be done to assess the challenges facing the County government in involving members of the public in governance which was not the concern of this study.

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## ***APPENDICES.***

### **APPENDIX I: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR MCA.**

I am a Masters student at The University of Nairobi carrying out a research on the determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance in Kenya; a case study of Machakos County. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with you about citizen participation in governance. Please be free to say when you are not ready to answer any of the questions

1. Position in the County Governance.
2. Do citizen in Machakos County participate in county governance?
3. What some of the institutional factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in Machakos County?
4. What are some of the initiatives at the county government aimed creating awareness among the public on their rights and ways of participation in County government.
5. How effective are the strategies for creation of aware on public participation on governance?
6. What some of the citizen related factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in Machakos County?
7. What some of the socio-economic factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in your County?
8. What would you recommend to be done to improve public participation in governance at the County level?

Thank you once more for taking time to discuss with me about citizen participation in governance in Machakos County.



### ***APPENDIX III: FGDs SCHEDULE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.***

I am a Masters student at The University of Nairobi carrying out a research on the determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance in Kenya; a case study of Machakos County. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with you about citizen participation in governance. Please be free to say when you are not ready to answer any of the questions.

1. What is your highest academic qualification?
2. Did you vote in the general election?
3. Have you participated in any governance meeting held by your County government?. If yes, which ones. If no why?
4. Do citizen in your County participate in County governance?
5. What some of the institutional related factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in your County?
6. What are some of the initiatives at the County government aimed creating awareness among the public on their rights and ways of participation in County government?
7. How effective are the strategies for creation of aware on public participation on governance?
8. What some of the individual citizen related factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in your County?
9. What some of the socio-economic factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in your County?
10. What would you recommend to be done to improve public participation in governance at the County level?

Thank you once more for taking time to discuss with me about citizen participation in governance in Machakos County.

## **APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANTS; MINISTERS.**

1. Do citizen in Machakos County participate in county governance?
2. What is the level of awareness of the citizen on their participation on County governance in Machakos County?
3. What are the institutional related factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in Machakos County?
4. What are the initiatives at the county government aimed creating awareness among the public on their rights and ways of participation in County government?
5. How effective are the strategies for creation of aware on public participation on governance?
6. What is the individual citizen related factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in Machakos County?
7. What are the socio-economic factors influencing citizen participation in County governance in your County?
8. What would you recommend to be done to improve public participation in governance at the County level?

Thank you once more for taking time to discuss with me about citizen participation in governance in Machakos County.

### ***APPENDIX III: WORK PLAN***

Activity	Period
Approval of the title of the study	: January-April 2014
Developing research proposal	:
Submission of the proposal	:
Data collection	:
Data analysis and Project writing	:
Proposal defense	:
Submission of the project to the Supervisors for marking	:
Final submission of the thesis	:

#### APPENDIX IV: BUDGET ESTIMATES

ITEM	COST (KSHS)	
1) Stationery		
Writing Materials	4,000/=	
Pens and pencils	300/=	
Files, Rulers and erasers	500/=	
Sub total	4,800/=	
2) Typesetting		
Typing of Proposal	1,500/=	
Typing of final report	2,000/=	
Printing services	3,000/=	
Sub total	6,500/=	
3) Traveling Expenses		
Transport to Machakos	6000/=	
Lodging and Food	7550/=	
Data collection (Vehicle hire + Enumerators)	57,630/=	
Sub total	70,880/=	
4) Binding Services		
Proposal spiral binding	2,000/=	
Final report binding	2,000/=	
Sub total		
5) Computer Services	5,000/=	
6) Data analysis	6,000/=	
7) Miscellaneous	3,000/=	
Sub total	14,000/=	
Grand total	<u>96,180/=</u>	

## APPENDIX VI: MAP OF MACHAKOS COUNTY

