

**FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MURRAM ROAD
PROJECTS IN NYAMIRA COUNTY,
KENYA.**

BY

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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university

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DEDICATION

The research project report is dedicated to my family and all those who gave me moral and financial support to undertake the project with ease.

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I wish to thank The University of Nairobi in its entirety for offering me the chance to sharpen my scholarship and skills. In the same vein I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my supervisor Dr. Moses Otieno who has taken me through the course diligently, professionally and with a lot of sacrifice. I wish to reserve special thanks for my lecturers Dr. Nyonje and Mr. Awino for his guidance and diligence in the course of the project proposal development, the support staffs. I must salute all my colleagues and friends at the University of Nairobi like Elijah Nyong'a Nyakagwa, my beloved wife Tabitha Nyamisa Onduko, my children: Chris, Cynthia, Edwin and Joseph. Above all I wish to thank God for helping me manage all these.

ABSTRACT

The term participation is a term modified with adjectives, resulting in terms such as community participation, citizen participation, people's participation, public participation, and popular participation. It means a community having a share in" or "to take part in ," thereby emphasizing the rights of individuals and the choices that they make in order to participate. Participatory development is the most important approach towards enabling communities to help themselves sustain and implement efforts in development work. The purpose of this study is to investigate the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of road projects in Nyamira County. Four research objectives that guided the study are: to establish how involvement in decision making and planning influence community participation in road development projects in Nyamira County, To determine how social factors affect community participation and implementation in road development projects in Nyamira County, To establish the influence of managerial involvement in community participation in road development projects in Nyamira County and to establish the community awareness and participation in development in Nyamira County. This study used a descriptive survey research design. The sample comprise of 138. Data was collected through questionnaire and interview guide. The community around was involved in the management of Nyamira County road development projects. The local members indicated that they were not involved in the operations and running of the road development projects

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ACROYNYS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCB	Citizen Community Boards
CDF	Community Development Fund
CP	Community participation
GOK	Government of Kenya
JICA	Japan international cooperation agency.
KHRC	Kenya Human Right Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
NWSB	Northern Water Services Board
OPEC	Organization of petroleum exporting countries
RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SPAN	Social and public accountability network
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

People's participation is the *sine qua non* for development. by unknown bureaucrats and technocrats" (Constantino, 1982). The notion of people's participation in their development has been gaining momentum in the process of human empowerment and development. Contemporary development scholars have been advocating the inclusion of people's participation in development projects as they believe the avowed objectives of any project cannot be fully achieved unless people meaningfully participate in it. Stone (1989) argues that people's participation in development projects may help bring effective social change rather than impose an external culture on a society. Similarly, referring to the experience of rural development programs, Shrimpton (1989) states that community participation in the design and management of a project greatly enhances the likelihood of project success due to improved goodness of fit and increased sustainability.

Participation is a rich concept that varies with its application and definition. The way participation is defined also depends on the context in which it occurs. For some, it is a matter of principle; for others, practice; for still others, an end in itself (World Bank, 1995). The most popular and widely adopted strategy for ensuring people's participation in local development is identified as decentralization. There is perhaps no other institution like local government bodies to provide a wide scope for people's participation in development projects. In Bangladesh for example, ever since decentralization has

become a major policy concern, the political masters have exploited it as a means of gaining their political goals. As a result, despite numerous reform initiatives in this field by the successive governments, Local Government Institutions (LGIs) have not yet emerged as autonomous and self-governing units. This, in turn, limited the scope of mass people's participation in the local decision-making process as well as development process of rural Bangladesh.

The concept of community participation originated about 40 years ago from the community development movement of the late colonial era in parts of Africa and Asia. To colonial administrators, community development was a means of improving local welfare, training people in local administration and extending government control through local self-help activities (McCommon, 1993). Today, it has developed as one of the major models of development especially related to grassroots community development initiatives and viewed as a basis for project success. It has also received wide acclaim, but also criticism. The World Bank (2004) considers participation as "a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives, and the decisions and resources which affects them. While Cleaver (2006) is critical that, "Participation has become an act of faith in development: something we believe in and rarely question."

Even though governments throughout the world are now accepting community participation as a main tool to solve the community problems, communities rarely own the projects fully. According to Abraham (1996) in community-based projects the community controls a project and makes important decisions, although professionals such as engineers may provide expertise, and finance may be provided by external financial

Sources. For a community to control projects, it must acquire administrative and management skills which most of the local people lack.

About 80% of Kenya is arid and semi-arid land, which includes Nyamira, the area of study. Demand for transport services has been increasing rapidly in this area because of increases in population, yet without a clear solution. Degradation of water resources and poor communication in the country are linked to financial and technological resource constraints. The decline in land resources and poor transport services have serious consequences for water allocations, enforcement of the Land Act, management of water resources and improving the quality of the land transport.

This study therefore, will try to review the practice of people's participation and the challenges that they faced in the project. So far, research has yet to be carried out to establish the limitation of community participation and indeed its effects on the implementation of the project. While the project has been funded by the Government of Kenya and donors and necessary contract drawn, the role of the community remains implicit. In many developing countries like Kenya, projects are the backbone of local development. Nevertheless with limited research, it has been hard to unearth the role of the community in project participation. In as much as development projects are undertaken to improve the livelihood of the community, the dearth of research continue to limit understanding. The practices of community work today are clear that- whether funded externally by donors or initiated by the government, community involvement is integral. The proposed research begs to answer outstandingly under-researched question: What constraints are faced by the community in project planning phase? How has community been involved in deciding on the project sites where land is an issue? The

project has run into numerous logical and implementation challenges which has been characterized by conflict between the implementing agency and the local community, contentious issues have ranged from environmental concerns, landownership issues which have ended up in the court awaiting expeditors determination. The project has overshoot its implementation timelines by more than one year resulting delays in its completion and incurring extra cost. The study aims at identifying the community participations challenges in the project with the aim of providing suggestions to address these challenges. But it cannot precisely be concluded, this is the basis of the stalled project- and therefore more reason to research on the issue. While a local level development project like roads development project is usually implemented by County roads Authorities and has socioeconomic aspect on labour, related literature shows that there is very little scope of participation for common people in decision making, management and supervision of local projects for instance the study by KHRC and SPAN (2010) ascertained that citizen awareness of CDF was very high (96%) but involvement very low (39%).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the community participation discourse, where the project failed to involve community, the likelihood of project functioning to logical end is limited; is this reality in Nyamira County road development projects delay. In June 2013 the Government of Kenya (GOK) successfully got a loan & grant of approximately U\$10 million from BADEA (BANK) & OPEC fund respectively (DFID, 2012). The loan became effective in September 2013. The contract was signed by the Put Sarajevo consultants and the Nyamira County roads board on 21st July, 2014). Although all the required steps were followed to acquire the land for road construction, various groups of farmers have been complaining that their farms have been encroached on. Yet, another group of people have gone to court to restrain the Nyamira County roads board from the construction. It is evident

that, despite huge external and internal pressure, the elusive phenomenon of people's participation in roads development projects is largely ignored, and this has clearly been exemplified in the case of Nyamira County road development projects, which has been on-going since 2014, but has yet to be completed. The present study attempted to investigate the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development projects.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the determinants of community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development projects.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- i. To establish the extent of community involvement in road development projects in Nyamira County.
- ii. To determine the effects of social factors in community participation in road development projects in Nyamira County.
- iii. To investigate the extent of community involvement in managerial role in road development projects in Nyamira County.
- iv. To establish the extent of community Sensitization on the role in road project development and maintenance in Nyamira County.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. To what extent is the community involved in road projects in Nyamira county?
- ii. How do social factors affect community participation in road projects in Nyamira County?

- iii. To what extent is the community involved in managerial roles in road projects in Nyamira County?
- iv. What level of the community sensitization in road projects in Nyamira County?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study is based on factors influencing community participation in the implementation of road development projects: a case of Nyamira County. Participatory development at county level has been an increasing concern for policy-makers as well as practitioners hence this study will be of great importance to different stakeholders. The study may help in providing a proposal for addressing the problems facing the community in planning for the delivery of good transport as a way improving the communication of the community at large. Study findings and detailed analysis, may help to bring out the latest scenario of development governance at the grassroots level. The study may come up with significant policy guidelines for policymakers. It may further help the policymakers identify the loopholes, if any, in the present system and thereby assist them to formulate proper policies in future.

1.7 Limitation of the study

Being a case study of an- ongoing project on road development projects in Nyamira County the findings of this study may not be generalized to the other regions that might not be undertaking county roads project. But that does not negate its role to inform on the community participation model.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

This study was carried out within Nyamira County; it focused only on the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of roads development projects within Nyamira County.

1.9 Definition of Terms

A community refers to a group of users of a service who live in the same area and have access to, and use, the same service.

A neighborhood refers to a geographical and/or administrative entity, in which a community lives.

Community participation may comprise varying degrees of involvement of the local community. It may range from the contribution of cash and labour to consultation, changes in behavior, involvement in administration, management and decision-making.

Community-based projects refer to projects whose operation is limited to a particular neighborhood.

Decision making refers to the ability of the participants to give ideas that are incorporated in the project.

Implementation refers to the way the project is rolled out.

Participation refers to involvement of community members in the development initiatives that concern and affects them. It implies that the community has the ability to initiate and implement development endeavors that reflect its own needs.

Performance refers to the extent to which projects achieve their goals.

Managerial involvement refers to public participation and involvement in the highest decision making organ

Social factors refers to those societal norms that society holds firm to and which affects their participation in community participation in development projects

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Concept of community participation, community participation and development, factors affecting community participation and sustainability of projects, influence of decision making on community participation in development projects, effects of social factors on community participation in education, influence of managerial involvement on community participating in development projects, review of empirical literature

2.2 Concept of community participation

Often the term participation is modified with adjectives, resulting in terms such as community participation, citizen participation, people's participation, public participation, and popular participation. The Oxford English Dictionary defines participation as "to have a share in" or "to take part in," thereby emphasizing the rights of individuals and the choices that they make in order to participate. Brager, Specht, and Torczyner (1987) defined participation as a means to educate citizens and to increase their competence. It is a vehicle for influencing decisions that affect the lives of citizens and an avenue for transferring political power. However, it can also be a method to co-opt dissent, a mechanism for ensuring the receptivity, sensitivity, and even accountability of social services to the consumers.

Armitage (1988) defined citizen participation as a process by which citizens act in response to public concerns, voice their opinions about decisions that affect them, and

take responsibility for changes to their community. Pran Manga and Wendy Muckle (Chappel, 1997) suggest that community participation may also be a response to the traditional sense of powerlessness felt by the general public when it comes to influencing government decisions: “people often feel that health and social services are beyond their control because the decisions are made outside their community. Involvement or community participation has become one of the important conditions and is essential for the implementation of programmes and projects and also a fundamental condition to attract projects and programmes. It is also considered as a method capable of solving problems of maintenance of essential services that some of our communities meet like inadequate access to water and sanitation and lack of public funds.

2.3 Community participation and development

The community development approach emphasizes self- help, the democratic process, and local leadership in community revitalization (Barker, 1991). Most community development work involves the participation of the communities or beneficiaries involved (Smith, 1998). Thus, community participation is an important component of community development and reflects a grassroots or bottom- up approach to problem solving. In social work, community participation refers to “. The active voluntary engagement of individuals and groups to change problematic conditions and to influence policies and programs that affect the quality of their lives or the lives of others” (Gamble and Weil, 1995).

One of the major aims of community development is to encourage participation of the community as a whole. Indeed, community development has been defined as a social

process resulting from citizen participation (UN, 1963; Vaughan, 1972; Darby and Morris, 1975; Christenson and Robinson, 1980; Rahman, 1990 in Smith, 1998). Through citizen participation, a broad cross-section of the community is encouraged to identify and articulate their own goals, design their own methods of change, and pool their resources in the problem-solving process (Harrison, 1995). It is widely recognized that participation in government schemes often means no more than using the service offered or providing inputs to support the project (Smith, 1998). This is contrasted with stronger forms of participation, involving control over decisions, priorities, plans, and implementation; or the spontaneous, induced, or assisted formation of groups to achieve collective goals (Arnstein, 1969; Cohen and Uphoff, 1980; Rifkin, 1990; WHO, 1991; Rahman, 1993; Smith, 1998).

The most important and complicated issue bearing on local level planning and development is community participation. Effective community participation may lead to social and personal empowerment, economic development, and sociopolitical transformation (Kaufman and Alfonso, 1997). Yet there are obstacles: the power of central bureaucracies, the lack of local skills and organizational experience, social divisions, and the impact of national and transnational structures (Kaufman and Alfonso, 1997). There is no clear-cut agreement in the literature of community development on the nature of community participation or on a prescription to ensure it. The need for community participation in development and management is nonetheless accepted and recognized in the professional literature.

Part of the principles of participation is the belief that the prospect for success in any attempt to change people's behavior depends on two factors. One is the readiness or

otherwise of the target group to change and two, the method or an approval that the latter believe will enable them to change (Young and Kingle, 1996). The most obvious interpretation one can give to this is that participation is an important principle of behavior change. No principle of behavior has greater recognize ability than the principle of participation.

Participation in a greater sense therefore, is the involvement of members of a particular community in the formulation of public policy or its implementation and its usage. That is, it is the participation of local people in the development process as a whole (Green 1986, Huff and Kline 1999). Looking towards the prevailing trends, governments throughout the world are now accepting community/people's participation as a main tool to solve the sewerage related problems of people. Conyers (1982) have described three main reasons due to which community participation is important, i.e. firstly, due to this the needs and local conditions of the people can well be judged. Secondly, every individual considered itself important in plan making process and thus own the project. Thirdly, everyone has the democratic right to be involved in the plan preparation and implementation process. This is also called as a Bottom up Planning where people are placed at the center and then the decision making is made. By doing so, the people own a project and thus sustainability of projects increases. Carrel, Thomas F. (1992) as well emphasized that to achieve sustainability of any project, community participation is an important tool.

Active community participation is considered as the single most important determinant of overall quality of Rural Roads Construction projects implementation. There are so many success stories worldwide to prove the value of community

participation. However, the level of community participation varies depending on the project implementation mechanism adopted by the project. Extent and effectiveness of community participation is also depend on other factors such as prevailing socioeconomic situation, local institutional support arrangement, level of project support staff intervention and existing WSS situation (Dahanayake , 2004).

Road construction facilities provided without the active participation of the beneficiaries in planning and management are often not properly operated and maintained and hence are unsustainable” (NWP, 2002:21). Ownership of the facilities including murrum roads is neither perceived to be, nor legally vested in user communities. These factors lead to a lack of commitment to maintenance of the facilities by the users. Communities should be empowered to initiate, own and manage their road projects including murrum roads.

2.4 Factors affecting community participation and sustainability of projects

Participation is an indispensable ingredient of development and development administration in all countries and occupies an institutional basis in the total process of developmental change. It is the way to improve on traditional ways of making decisions, setting agendas, and devising policy (Rowe and Frewer, 2004:513). But participation is not easy to achieve. People’s participation in development programs is not only affected by the environment in which participatory practices take place but also conditioned by the institutional framework, socio-economic as well as political backgrounds of the participants (Samad, 2002 and Gupte, 2004).

Parameswaran (1999) argues that a range of characteristics such as technology used to implement project activities can be effective to CP. The more complex the technology,

the less participation. The question of technology has direct link with sustainability of project services especially when operational and maintenance costs are to be met by the beneficiary communities. Another factor according to Parameswaran is on human and financial resources, as they are vital when it comes to meeting operational and maintenance costs. Furthermore, transparency accounts for the degree of CP. For this matter community members will actively participate if benefits are clearly articulated and obtained immediately at the beginning of the project design. There are a number of problems that emerge in the cause of participatory approach, such as conflicts of interest among different social groups, cultural, and political constraints (Mbugua et al., 1993). Moreover, suggested that too much mass involvement in decision-making impedes development growth of the ongoing project.

The argument is that it delays decision-making. Thus, participatory planning needs to be facilitated by appropriate expertise so as to determine who should participate, how, what will be the scope of participation and also how much weight should be given to wishes and demands expressed as compared to priorities already set by official authorities (Martinusen, 1999). David and Joseph (2001) also had the view that participation does not mean that all views from people should be taken into account when setting project activities.

2.5 Decision making on community participation in development projects

The project should encourage a maximum number of people in the participation of development projects. Such involvement should give the participants full inclusion in designing, organizing, and implementing activities and workshops in order to create consensus, ownership, and action in support of development projects in specific areas. It should include people and groups rather than exclude any individuals. Public involvement is a process for involving the public in the decision making of an organization (Becker, 1997, p. 155). Participation actually brings the public into the decision-making process. White (1989) stressed community involvement in management of public protected land. Community public involvement can take place at several stages in the establishment and management of public protected land. These stages are: (1) the recognition of a need; (2) discussions with interested parties and integration with the community; (3) baseline studies and monitoring; (4) education; (5) core group building and formalization of reserves; and (6) enforcement.

Recent decades have seen a dramatic increase in public participation in decision-making conducted by government agencies. This increase has been driven both by citizens who demand a greater role in shaping the decisions that affect their well-being, and by agencies that recognize the benefits of involving citizens in their decision making processes. It is now widely believed that members of the public should participate in decision making (Webler et al., 2001), and there are many laws, regulations, and policies that call for public participation in environmental decision-making (ELI, 1999). Evidence

suggests that involving stakeholders results in better quality decisions (Beierle and Cayford, 2002). The forms and processes of public participation in environmental decision-making by government agencies are highly variable. There is a rich literature of case studies that describe these many forms and processes, assess their relative merits, and provide insights about what works and what doesn't (see for example Beierle, 2000; Conley and Moote, 2003; Chess and Purcell, 1999; Renn et al., 1995; Zarger, 2003 for reviews). Agencies now have much to guide them in developing environmental public participation programs that can meet their needs and circumstances.

Community dissatisfaction with agency characterizations of risk and with road contractors' decisions in relation to structural sites has created public demand for more community involvement in decision-making about these sites (Ashford and Rest, 1999). Many people argue for the importance of involving the public in the process of gathering scientific data for risk assessment, and in making decisions about managing environmental and structural risks associated with the cleanup of destruction of structures. These advocates see public participation as a basic human right.

They also believe that participation can help increase trust in government, and in the legitimacy, credibility, and acceptability of risk management decisions (G. Charnley, 2000; Folk, 1991; Rowe and Frewer, 2000). Public participation also contributes valuable local knowledge and experience that supplements that of „technical experts, aiding in the ecological risk assessment process, and in more effective risk management decisions (e.g. Goldstein et al., 2000). However, other people criticize the public participation process, asserting that it increases rather than decreases conflict between agencies and the public, increases rather than decreases the costs of making and implementing policy decisions,

and is unduly time consuming (English, 1996). In addition, some people believe that involvement processes are counter-democratic, claiming that they increase the influence of special interest groups. Moreover, some people believe that decisions involving complex technical and scientific issues should be made by experts, viewing members of the general public as being unqualified to address them, and too emotionally involved in the problems to be solved (Folk, 1991).

In light of these kinds of concerns, agency managers may only support public participation programs if it can be demonstrated through evaluation that they are useful for improving decisions or reducing conflicts, and worth the commitment of resources. Evaluation is also the best way to learn how public participation programs can become more effective. Furthermore, evaluation makes it possible to see how well government policies regarding public participation correspond to government practices for involving citizens in environmental decision-making.

The requirement of decision making applies to all parties involved in the project, such as project management, external organizers, and traditional leaders, as well as any emergent leadership from the ranks of the poor and the disadvantaged (Adnan, Barrett, Alam, and Brustinow, 1992, p. 32). The authors also note that the agencies involved in project management and implementation are procedurally and periodically answerable to the people in the project area, as well as the citizens of the country in general. All people should be aware of their roles in the project and the planning of activities of the project. Accountability of concerned community members must be ensured, particularly after the decision is taken.

Participation plays a major role in people's management of their own affairs. Ownership and control of resources have a profound impact on participation in development projects (Mathbor, 1990b). Ferrer (1988) emphasized four areas to be worked toward in a participatory farm resource management program: greater economic and social equality, better access to services for all, greater participation in decision making, and deeper involvement in the organizing process resulting from the empowerment of people.

2.6 Social factors in community participation in road development projects.

A study by Angba et al., in 2009 evaluating the effect of socioeconomic characteristics of rural youths on their attitude towards participation in community development projects in farms, Kenya. Data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire administered to 210 youths in 27 communities. A multi stage random sampling technique was employed in the selection and data analysis was by the use of Pearson Correlation. Findings revealed that some relationship exist significantly between socio-demographic characteristics such as educational level and the attitude of youths towards community development projects

Educational level correlates significantly and positively with age. The implication of this finding is that as one attains a higher level of education attitude towards participating in community development projects is likely to be more favorable. In essence the higher the educational level attained the more favorable the attitude towards participating in community development projects. Ovwigho and Ifie (2004) reiterated the importance of education when they noted youth's involvement in cooperative endeavors. Also,

Onweagba (1990) in a study found that education was linked to attitude towards participation.

Similarly, Ekong (2003) reported that age is more often used as a tenable criterion for some social status than education. According to Nelson et al (1960) educational levels are highly significant in the extent, intensity and pattern of participation. They further stated that participation increases with education, but beyond the high school level the increase is greatest in non church-related organizations. It was further expressed that effective participation obviously requires communicative and human relational skills which must be learned; hence those who are better educated would be better empowered for participation because their attitude would likely be favourable.

Asiabaka (1990) found that educated women participated more in the rural development programme of government (Better Life Programme). Education is a major determinant of effective participation in community development projects. The educated people would most likely appreciate community development better than the less educated. If the people appreciate community development his attitude towards participating in community development projects is likely to be favourable. Onu (1990) had reported the importance of education among rural development agents. The educated youths are potent agents in development in many rural and urban communities.

2.7 Community involvement in managerial role in road development projects

According to Constantino (1982), experts from donor agencies always dominate as they are providing funds so they make decisions about developmental projects. Professional experts forget their role of facilitation and development. She examined that the professional experts always assume that they know about situation very well and their main duty is to transfer knowledge to deprived communities and they implement project with counting the developmental needs of local communities. The reason behind is that developmental practitioners trained in such a way that they always think that they are the only people who can empower the deprived communities and they always think well than others. This unexpected role of developmental experts impedes the skills the local people. As these professional experts believe him as sole owner of developmental knowledge results this monopoly leads to consistently under rate the skills and capabilities of local societies and groups to decide for themselves. As in case of Pakistan, a study conducted by JICA (2005) on CCBs elaborated the results as “Pakistan Community is not capable to implement Project themselves. The history of community development shows that Pakistani community has very little exposure to implement self-initiated projects”. Many authors raise the point that it is very difficult for professional experts to see the actual needs of community without being interaction with them. They have to shift the paradigms and have to see from the eyes of beneficiaries (Dudley, 1993; Heymans, 1994; Rowland’s, 1995).

In case of Citizen Community Boards (CCBs) in Pakistan, fund was provided by World Bank and JICA. In some instance it feels that process of empowering communities through devolution initiative in Pakistan is not genuine as they are not allowed to access resource reserved for project freely but it feels that it is rather an attempt to implements those projects which already been conceived by professional experts. In some case people are allowed to participate after the preparation of project design and tendering. The communities have to accept already accessed and assembled projects rather than of desired projects. Such sort of efforts can only sway communities to accept what professional experts suggest best for them.

2.8 Review of empirical literature

A few research studies are conducted on people's participation at development projects. The core findings of those studies are pointed out here. Though local level participatory planning is highly demanded from different corners of the society even from government publications for long but participatory planning friendly instructions is almost absent in different development projects guideline which is reflected in a government prescribed detailed guidebook for the union perished named „Union Parishad Training Manual published by the National Institute of Local Government (NILG). In the sixth chapter of this book titled „Participatory planning at local level, it was mentioned that, “Real development has not been achieved because in a top-down method, the demand felt by the people is not reflected and there is no participation and sharing of the people in making plans. In this context importance has been given in local level participatory planning as well as national planning” (NILG, 2003).

Ali *et al* (1983) found that people's participation is the basic tool for achieving national goals of development. In order to implement governmental policies in right perspectives, the people -- the real clients of the governmental operations, are to be involved at all stages of development intervention. But because of bureaucratic preponderance and distrust by the successive governments to the people, people's participation in a large scale in local development process remained beyond the reach of the ordinary people. Aminuzzaman (2008) notes that some invisible but serious issues characterize the quality and process of participation and governance of the rural local government. Most critical ones include: i) continued centralized control over the UP- maintained through the administration and the limited resources at its disposal; ii) the critical and often hidden role of the MPs and other political stakeholders in development planning and management; and iii) lack of effective institutional mechanism which gives poor and marginalized to take part in the development project planning, supervision and or implementation. All such factors have a direct impact on the level and quality of local level accountability and popular participation of the common people into the affairs of the development project. Aminuzzaman also observed that women and marginalized are excluded from major decision-making arenas in the rural power play and privileged distribution. Another study on people's participation on development projects was conducted by Khan and Asaduzzaman (1995). This study revealed that people's participation in development projects through local government is still a misnomer.

Nazneen (2004) found that the participation of the poor and the marginalized in rural development projects has not increased significantly rather some touts and intermediaries have enjoyed more access to those projects and grasped its fruits. In equalities as regards

involving, owning development projects and sharing project benefits between the community people and local elites is a ubiquitous reality in rural Bangladesh. There is a general assumption that the interest of the poor and the disadvantaged cannot be safeguarded in the exploitive social structure unless it is protected by legislation. In this context, the study revealed that despite the oversupply of legislations to protect the rights of the underprivileged, the rural elites have been consolidating their strong repressive influence on local development interventions. Legal coverage, therefore, does not provide any meaningful role in integrating local people into development project cycle.

Afsar (1999) in her study shows that poor people's participation in local development activities is very limited; community participation in the decision-making process has been very minimal. Because of the over-class bias and widespread corruption there has been severe neglect of the poor and the disadvantaged in the decision-making process. Khan (2009) identifies bureaucratic domination in the local councils, lack of knowledge, and lack of expertise in technical matters are the root causes for non-participation. Local elites form connivance with local administration for their own interests and bypass the needs of the mass. So the scanty participation that exists is limited only to the rich and participation of the rural poor is minimal.

Hossain *et al.* (1978) examines that people's participation in planning and implementation of development projects has been very limited. Siddiquee (1995) observes the same findings in his study. His study also reveals that poor people are hardly included in the projects. Committees are mostly dominated by people with strong socio-economic or political background. In addition, project committees have largely been used as mechanisms of patronage distribution. Development projects have been a means for

the local representatives to build a future for themselves. He further identifies that prevailing socio-economic and political contexts act as important deterrents to grassroots participation in the development process.

Asaduzzaman (2008) found that community participation in development projects is still an „elusive golden deer“ that the nation sought persistently but could not find during the last three decades or more. His study however, emphasized that clientelism which is a direct product of the undemocratic political culture of Bangladesh, is a major threat to people’s participation in local development programs /projects. In addition, the study also identifies political reluctance and bureaucrat resistance as major challenges to people’s participation in development intervention in Bangladesh.

Community participation in development programs/projects has been gaining momentum as a new strategy for development since 1970s. In post-independent Bangladesh, almost all the development projects ever taken at grass-root level have been initiated and implemented under the supervision of the project. But the livelihood of poor villagers, the real beneficiary or victim of development initiatives has not been significantly improved. The participatory culture has not been institutionalized at project level till today. One of the reasons behind this contention may be improper addressing of the issue through extensive research. In fact, there is lack of empirical evidence on the extent and status of community people’s participation in UP-led development projects and identification of the major factors for non-participation and its possible solutions. Therefore, the study is undertaken to fill up the gap of the knowledge of participatory practices in grass-root level development project cycle.

Figure 2.1: conceptual framework

Conceptual frame work critically highlights the relationship that exists between the variables of the study. Variables of organizational skills encompasses planning and leadership. Planning entails budgeting and resources allocation while leadership means how leaders are chosen in the groups and the style chosen by members of a group to be used in governing them.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

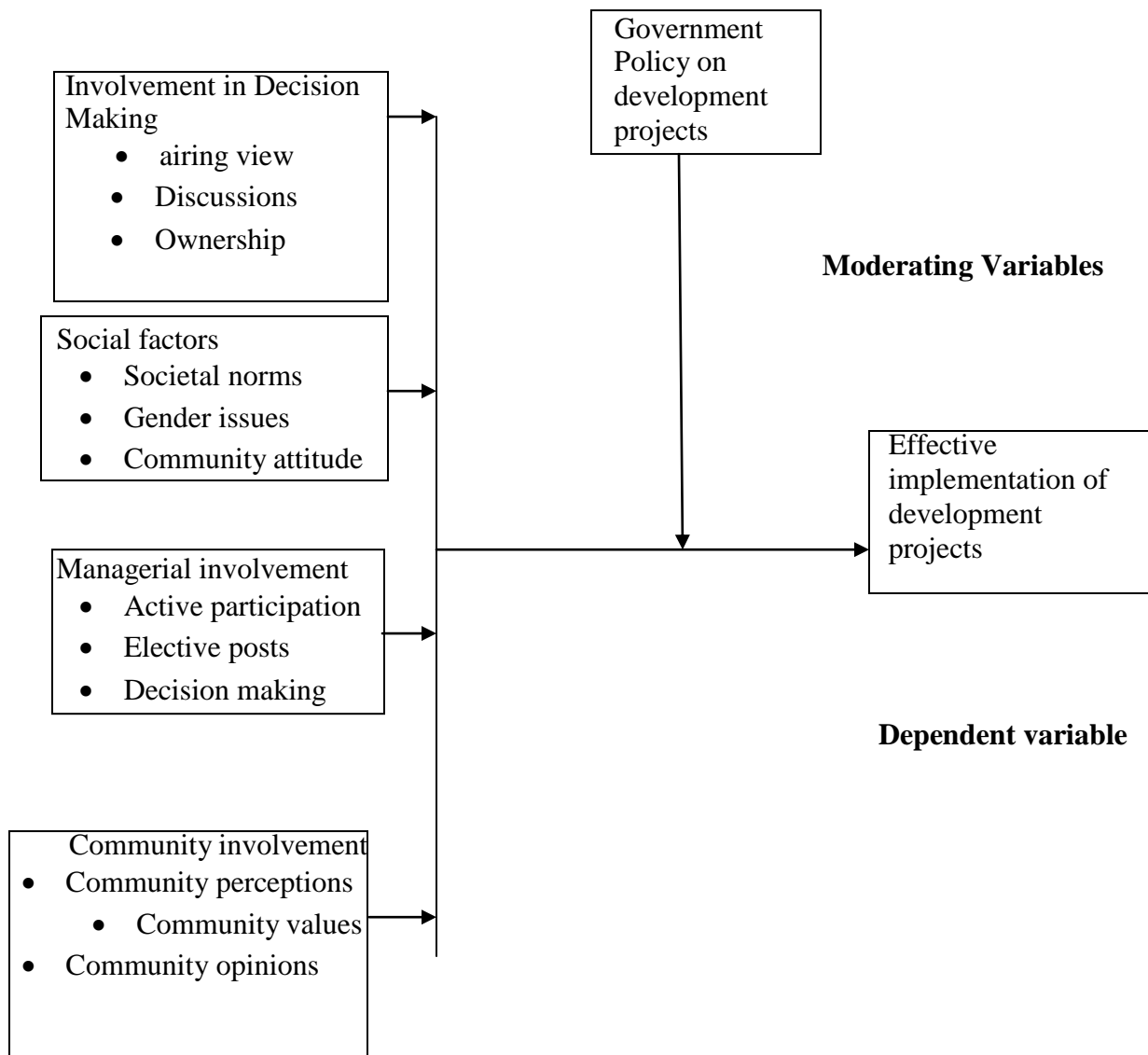


Figure 1 conceptual framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of methodology and procedures applied in this study. It describes the processes that were employed to collect and analyze data. It focuses on research design, target population, sample and sampling procedures, research instruments, and data collection and analysis.

3.2 Research Design

This study employed a descriptive survey research design. According to Orodho (2005), “descriptive survey design is used in preliminary and exploratory studies to allow researchers to gather information, summarize, present and interpret for the purpose of clarification. (Best & Kahn ,1993) postulates that descriptive survey design is the most appropriate design in the behavioral sciences as it seeks to find out factors associated with occurrence of certain events and conditions of behaviour. Using this design the investigator does not control any variables but only describes the situation as it is at a particular point in time. This design therefore enabled the researcher to explore the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of road project in Nyamira County.

3.3 Target population

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) define population as an entire group of individuals, events or objects having common observable characteristics. Nyamira County has a total population of 623,060. A male population of 334,939 and a female population of 288,121 (census 2009). The major economic activity in the county being cash crop farming. The unit of analysis for this study is all centralized in Nyamira County.

3.4 Sampling method

Brinker [2006] defines sampling as a systematic selection of representative cases from the larger population. The objective of sampling is to get accurate empirical data at a fraction of the cost that it would take to examine all possible cases. Simple random sampling technique was used, to select the respondent. The respondents were stratified in two categories e.g. the community members and local leaders. With a target population of 623060 sample sizes of 138 were selected for the study. 128 were community members and 10 were local leaders. The sample size was determined based on Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) recommended as follows

$$N = Z^2 * \frac{pq}{e^2}$$

Z=standard normal deviation at the required confidence level e.g. 95% or 1.96

P=proportion of population estimated to have characteristics being measured (10% as recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003).

E=1-p(proportion of population without the characteristics)

F=level of statistical significance (Degree of freedom=0.05)

$$N = 1.96^2 (0.1) (0.9) / 0.05 = 0.34574 / 0.0025 = 138$$

3.5 Data collection instruments

Data was collected through questionnaire and interview guide. The questionnaires were used for the community members and interviews with the local leaders were highly structured and were guided by questionnaires. However, unlike those in the community, these interviews took place under extreme time limits set by the local leaders. To supplement the questionnaire, interviews were conducted to get more information on how the project was planned, organized, implemented and how were the people involved.

3.6 Validity and reliability of the instruments

The validity and reliability of the instruments are discussed below:

3.6.1 Validity of the instruments

Both face validity and content validity was checked. Face validity referred the possibility that a question would be misunderstood or misinterpreted. Pre – testing was done during piloting stage to identify those items and hence the items were modified accordingly. This increases face validity. Borg and Gall (1985) points out that validity of an instrument is improved through expert judgment. The examiners during proposal defense and the supervisors therefore gave expert judgment which helped improve content validity. The necessary adjustments were made on the instruments to enhance their validity.

3.6.2 Reliability of the instruments

To determine reliability of the research, questionnaires were piloted on other community projects that had similar characteristic instruments with the ones used in this study, internal consistency technique was used. Reliability in this case was determined from scores obtained from a single test administered by the researcher to a sample of subjects.

A score obtained in one item were correlated with scores obtained from other items. The internal consistency technique was used to calculate the reliability index. The reliability was computed using Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha or KR 20 formula which is as follows:

$$KR\ 20 = (K) (S^2 - \sum s^2) / (S^2) (K - 1)$$

Where KR 20 = reliability coefficient of internal consistency

K = Number of items used to measure the concept

S^2 = Variance of all scores

s^2 = Variance of individual items

3.7 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher obtained an introduction letter from the University of Nairobi to obtain a research permit from the National Council for Science and Technology. After this, the researcher obtained an introduction letter from the County Officer, Nyamira County to operate in his area. The researcher then booked appointment with local leader's in-charge of monitoring the community projects and to book appointment for interviews. The researcher then with the aid of research assistants visited the sampled respondents and administered the questionnaires.

The respondents were guided on how to respond and were assured of confidentiality after which they were given the questionnaires to fill within three days

3.8 Methods of Data Analysis

After all data is collected, the researcher conducted data cleaning, which involves identification of incomplete or inaccurate responses, which were corrected to improve the

quality of the responses. After data cleaning, the data were coded and entered in the computer for analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study yielded both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data were analyzed qualitatively using content analysis based on analysis of meanings and implications emanating from respondents information and documented data. As observed by Gay (2004) qualitative data provides rich descriptions and explanations that demonstrate the chronological flow of events as well as often leading to serendipitous (chance) findings. On the other hand, quantitative data were analyzed using various statistics including measures of central tendency and dispersion. Simple descriptive statistics was employed to analyze quantitative data. The statistics used include frequency and percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

Presented in this chapter are data analysis, presentation and interpretation of finding. The data presented in this chapter were processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). All themes discussing the same research questions were presented and analyzed together. The analysis of data was presented in both tables and figures and narrative explained.

4.2 Response rate

Questionnaire return is the proportion of the questionnaires returned after they have been issued to the respondents. Out of the 138 local community members and local leaders sampled in the study, 135 members returned the questionnaires which were deemed adequate for data analysis.

4.3 Demographic data of the local community members

This section presents the demographic data of the local community members. The demographic data of the local community members was based on their gender, age, level of education and their occupation. To establish the gender of the local community members, they were asked to indicate their gender.

Table 4.3.1 Distribution of respondents by gender

Gender	no. of respondents	%
Male	57	42.2
Female	78	57.8
Total	135	100.0

Majority 78(57.8%) of the local members were female while 57(42.2%) of local members were male. Table tabulates age of the local community members. The data shows more representation of females than males but it will not have effect on the findings.

Table 4.3.2 Distribution of respondents by age.

Age /years	No of respondents	%
25 – 30	63	24.4
31 – 35	33	17.8
41 – 45	24	11.1
51 and above	15	100.0
Total	135	

Data shows that 63(46.7%) of the local community members were aged between 25 and 30 years, 33(24.4%) of members were aged between 31 and 35 years, 24(17.8%) of members were between 41 and 45 years while 15(11.1%) of the members were above 51 years. The data shows that community members participating in the implementation of the project are relatively young and hence deemed as energetic and hence could

positively be involved in the project. When asked to indicate their education status, they responded as Table 4.3.3

Table 4.3.3 Distribution of respondents by level of education

Education	No. of respondents	%
Primary education	60	44.4
Secondary education	35	25.9
Degree and above	17	12.6
Illiterate	23	17.0
Total	135	100.0

Table 4.3.3 shows that 60(44.4%) of the members had primary education, 35(25.9%) of members had secondary education, 17(12.6%) of the members had acquired bachelor's degree and above level while 23(17.0%) of the members were illiterate. The data shows that majority of the community members had lower level of education (primary) which could hinder their effective participation in the implementation of the project.

The study further sought to investigate the occupation of the local community members.

Table 4.3.4 Distribution of respondents by occupation.

Occupation	No, of respondents	%
Farmers	82	60.7
Business Service/Trade	32	23.7
Unskilled labors	9	6.7
Skilled	12	8.9
Total	135	100.0

Data shows that majority 82(60.7%) of the Local community members were farmers sector, 32(23.7%) of the members were in business services sector, 9(6.7%) were in labor while 12(8.9%) of the members were in education sector. The data shows that majority of the community members were farmers which is a dominant economic activity in the area.

4.4 Factors affecting community participation in development projects

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County. The participants in the study were therefore posed with a number of research questions that they were required to respond to. To establish the factors that affect community participation in development projects in Nyamira County, the researcher sought to establish whether the community members knew anything about the functions of the road project. Table 4.5 presents their responses.

Table 4.3.5: Local members' responses on whether they knew anything about the functions of the road project

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	97	71.9
No	38	28.10
Total	135	100.0

Data shows that majority 97(71.9%) of the community members were aware about the of the road project. When asked whether the development projects undertaken in their locality had been implemented through participation of all. They responded as Table 4.3.6

Table 4.3.6 Participation of the local community member's in the implementation of development projects

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	30	22.2
No	105	77.8
Total	135	100.0

Findings shows that majority 105(77.8%) of the local members viewed that the development projects undertaken in their locality had not been implemented through participation of all. The data shows that members of the community were not involved in development projects. To establish whether the members participated in planning of development project, they were asked to respond to the same item.

Table 4.3.7 Community members' responses on whether they participated in implementation of development project.

of development projects in Nyamira County.

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	21	15.6
No	114	84.4
Total	135	100.0

Data shows that majority 114(84.4%) of the members did not participate in planning of Nyamira development project. The study also found that even other local people were not involved in project planning and implementation as indicated by majority 81(60.0%) of the community members.

The study further sought to establish the local leaders understanding by community participation. The community leaders indicated that it means involvement of the community, in the project functioning and its implementation. They further said that it was a process of involving the local community in contributing to the project either in cash or in kind through consultation, changes in behavior, involvement in administration, management and decision-making.

The researcher posed question to local leaders asking them to indicate the role of the community in planning stage at the village level. They indicated that the community members if approached at the grassroots or bottom- up to approach solution to the problem would be reached easily. The local members were asked whether the opinions of every one were heard and respected. Table 4.3.8 shows their responses.

Table 4.3.8 Community members' responses on whether opinions of every one were heard and respected

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	50	37.0
No	85	63.0
Total	135	100.0

Majority 85(63.0%) of the community members viewed that opinions of every one were not heard and respected. The study further sought to investigate the rate of participation of members of the community to the development project. This further implies that they were not fully involved in the implementation of development projects in the area. The community members were asked to respond to the same item. Table 4.3.9 shows the findings.

Table 4.3.9 Members ranking on the level of participation of community people at

Development project

Response	No. of respondents	%
Lowest	95	73.0
Medium	37	24.8
Highest	3	2.2
Total	135	100.0

Majority 95(73.0%) of the community members ranked the level of participation of community people at development project being low, 37(24.8%) of members said it was medium while a significant number 3(2.2%) of members said it was high.

4.5 Influence of decision making on community participation Nyamira County road development project

To establish how involvement in decision making influenced community participation in road development project, the local were asked how long it took to put the people into discussion given their low level of understanding. The local leaders said that a lot of time needed to put the people into discussion as the most locals were illiterate and took time to understand the project was not provided.

The study further sought to establish whether the community around were involved in the management of road development projects. Table 4.4.0 tabulates local member's responses.

Table 4.4.0 Community members responses on whether community around were involved in the management of development projects in Nyamira County

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	42	28.5
No	93	71.5
Total	135	100.0

Majority 93(71.5%) of the local members indicated that the community around was not involved in the management of Nyamira roads development project. Asked whether road development project was run by people from other areas, they responded as Table 4.4.1.

Table 4.4.1 Local members’ responses on whether development project was run by people from other areas

Response	No. of respondents	%
Agree	84	62.3
Disagree	38	28.1
Undecided	13	9.6
Total	135	100.0

Table 4.4.1 shows that majority 84(62.3%) of the local members agreed that road development project was run by people from other areas, 38(28.1%) of the members disagreed with the statement. To determine whether the local members had been called for meeting concerning the Nyamira road development projects, they were asked to indicate the same. Table 4.4.2 shows the responses.

Table 4.4.2 Local members’ responses on whether they had been called for a meeting concerning development projects

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	56	41.50
No	79	58.5
Total	135	100.0

Table 4.4.2 shows that majority 79(58.5%) of the local members had never been called for a meeting concerning road development projects. Data from the interview guide of the local leaders indicated that the community had less educated people who would most

likely appreciate community development better than the less educated and their attitudes towards participating in community development projects were not favorable.

4.6 Effect of social factors on community participation in Nyamira County development projects

The study further sought to determine how social factors affect community participation in road development projects. The local community members were posed with items that sought to establish the extent to which social factors influenced the participation of the community in the development projects. Table **4.4.3** tabulates their findings.

Table 4.4.3 Community members rate on the extent at which social factors influenced the participation of the community in the system projects

Social factors	High extent		Low extent	
	F	%	F	%
Educational level	96	71.1	39	28.9
Attitude of the community members	100	74.1	35	25.9

Table 4.4.3 shows that majority 96(71.1%) of local members indicated that education level influenced the participation of the community in the development projects at a high extent. Findings further shows that majority 100(74.1%) of the local members indicated that the attitude of the community members influenced to a high extent. This agreed with the community local leaders who during the interview said that educated people appreciated community development compared to less educated members of the community. The researcher further asked the local community members whether educated people participated more in the road development projects. Figure 4.4.4 shows the findings.

Table 4.4.4 Local members’ responses on whether educated people participated more in Nyamira County development projects

Response	No. of respondents	%
Agree	38	28.1
Disagree	84	62.3
Undecided	13	9.6
Total	135	100.0

Majority 84(62.3%) of the local community disagreed that educated people participated more in the roads development projects while 38(28.1%) of the local members agreed with the statement.

4.7: Influence of managerial involvement of the community on road development projects in Nyamira County.

The study further investigated whether the managerial involvement of community influenced their participation in the development projects. The local community members were asked whether there were involved in the operations and running of the Nyamira County road project. Data is tabulated in Table **4.4.5**

Table 4.4.5 Local community members' responses on whether they were involved in the operations and running of the roads development project in Nyamira County

Response	No. of respondents	%
No	125	92.6
Yes	10	7.4
Total	135	100.0

Majority 125(92.6%) of the local members indicated that they were not involved in the operations and running of the road project while 10(7.4%) of members were involved. The researcher sought to establish the group that made decisions about developmental projects. Table 4.4.6 shows the findings.

Table 4.4.6 Local member's responses on the group that made decisions about road development projects

Response	No. of respondents	%
Donors	80	59.2
Professional experts	50	37.0
Community members	5	3.7
Total	135	100.0

Table 4.4.6 shows that donors made decisions about developmental projects as indicated by majority 80(59.2%) of the community members while a significant number 5(3.7%) of

local members indicated that community members made decisions about developmental projects.

Table 4.4.7: Local members’ responses on whether the skills and capabilities of local societies and groups to decide for themselves about road development projects were undermined

Response	No. of respondents	%
Strongly Agree	37	27.4
Agree	55	40.7
Disagree	38	28.1
Undecided	5	3.7
Total	135	100.0

Data shows that 55(40.0%) of the local members agreed that the skills and capabilities of local societies and groups to decide for themselves about the development projects were undermined while 38(28.1%) of members disagreed with the statement.

Table: 4.4.8 Local members’ responses on whether they felt satisfied with the decisions made by the management of the road development projects.

Response	No. of respondents	%
Strongly Agree	14	10.4
Agree	32	23.7
Disagree	66	48.9
Undecided	4	3.0
Strongly disagree	19	14.1
Total	135	100.0

Findings shows that 66(48.9%) of the local members disagreed that they felt satisfied with the decisions made by the management of the development projects. Findings from the interview guide of the local leaders in the community reviewed that the funding agency did not involve the local community in the education on the development project to ensure that the project was understood, accepted and institutionalized, given the experiences of people about mistrust of some development agencies officials.

4.8 Challenges faced by the community in their involvement in the road development project

To investigate the challenges faced by the community in the participation in road development projects, the local members were asked whether there were any problems encountered in participation of the community. Table 4.4.8 presents the findings.

Table 4.4.9: Local members’ responses on the challenges encountered in participation of the road project

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	90	66.7
No	45	33.3
Total	135	100.0

Majority 90(66.7%) of the members said that there were problems encountered in participation of the community. This agreed with the local leaders’ responses as they indicated that the resources to facilitate participatory planning were inadequate. The local leaders added that some of problems associated with community participatory as the technology adapted was complex hence less educated members could not actively participate. They further said that human and financial resources were vital when it comes to meeting operational and maintenance costs and hence the local members could not participate. They also indicated that there were challenges in establishing the amount of money used in the project. The locals further indicated that problems such as conflicts of interest among different social groups, cultural, and political constraints emerged in the cause of the project.

The local members were asked whether community participation in planning, implementation and management of road project could lead to effective and sustainable transportation services. Majority 125(92.6%) of the members agreed as indicated by table 4.4.10

Table 4.5.0 Local members’ responses on whether community participation in planning, implementation and management of road project could leads to the effective and sustainable sanitation services

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	125	92.6
No	10	7.4
Total	135	100.0

Data shows that majority of the community were of the opinion that their participation in planning, implementation and management of roads project could leads to the effective and sustainable sanitation services. Asked whether the project was helpful to the community they responses as Table 4.5.1

Table 4.5.1: Local members’ responses on whether project is helpful to the community

Response	No. of respondents	%
Yes	98	72.6
No	37	27.4
Total	135	100.0

Findings shows that majority 98(72.6%) of the local members said that the project was helpful to the community.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the study, summary of findings, discussions, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further study.

5.2 Summary of findings

The purpose of this study was to investigate factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. Research question one sought to establish how involvement in decision making influence community participation in Nyamira County road development project. Research question two aimed at determining how social factors affect community participation in Nyamira County road development projects. Research question three sought to establish the influence of managerial involvement on community participation in Nyamira County road development projects while the last research question aimed at establishing challenges faced by the community in the participation in Nyamira County road development projects. This study employed a descriptive survey research design. The sample comprised of 138. Data were collected through questionnaire and interview guide.

5.3 Discussions

Findings on the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of road development projects: a case of Nyamira County revealed that majority 97(71.9%) of the community members were aware about the road project. This is in line with Kaufman and Alfonso (1997) who state that effective community participation is possible when the community is aware of the project and have developed ownership of the project. Majority 105(77.8%) of the local members were of the opinion that the development projects undertaken in their locality had not been implemented through participation of all. Findings further showed that majority 114(84.4%) of the members did not participate in planning of Nyamira County roads development project. The study also found that even the local leaders were not involved in project planning and implementation as indicated by majority 81(60.0%) of the community members. This agrees with According to Young and Kingle (1996) part of the principles of participation is the belief that the prospect for success in any attempt to change people's behaviour depends on two factors. One is the readiness or otherwise of the target group to change and two, the method or an approval that the latter believe will enable them to change. The most obvious interpretation one can give to this is that participation is an important principle of behavior change. No principle of behaviour has greater recognize ability than the principle of participation. It was also revealed that majority 85(63.0%) of the community members viewed that opinions of every one were not heard and respected. Findings also showed that majority 85(63.0%) of the community members ranked the level of participation of community people at development project being low. Green 1986, Huff and Kline (1999) state that participation in a greater

sense therefore, is the involvement of members of a particular community in the formulation of public policy or its implementation and its usage. That is, it is the participation of local people in the development process as a whole.

Findings on the influence of involvement decision making on community participation in Nyamira County road development project showed that majority 83(61.5%) of the local members indicated that community around were not involved in the management of road development projects. Majority 84(62.3%) of the local members agreed that road development project was run by people from other areas while majority 79(58.5%) of the local members had never been called for a meeting concerning road development projects. It was also revealed that the community had less educated people who would most likely appreciate community development better than the less educated and their attitudes towards participating in community development projects were not favorable. The findings disagree with Becker (1997) who noted that project should encourage a maximum number of people in the participation of development projects. Such involvement should give the participants full inclusion in designing, organizing, and implementing activities and workshops in order to create consensus, ownership, and action in support of development projects in specific areas. It should include people and groups rather than exclude any individuals. As Mathbor (1990) notes, participation plays a major role in people's management of their own affairs. Ownership and control of resources have a profound impact on participation in development projects. On the other Ferrer (1988) emphasized four areas to be worked toward in a participatory coastal resource management program: greater economic and social equality, better access to services for all, greater participation in decision making,

and deeper involvement in the organizing process resulting from the empowerment of people. Findings on the effect of social factors influencing community participation in the implementation of road development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development project revealed that majority 96(71.1%) of local members indicated that education level influenced the participation of the community in the development projects at a high extent. Findings further showed that majority 100(74.1%) of the local members indicated that the attitude of the community members influenced at a high extent. Majority 84(62.3%) of the local community disagreed that educated people participated more in the road development projects while 38(28.1%) of the local members agreed with the statement. The findings disagrees with Angba et al.(2009) revealed that some relationship exist significantly between socio-demographic characteristics such as educational level and the attitude of youths towards community development projects.

It was also revealed that managerial involvement influenced community participation in Nyamira County road development projects. For example, majority 72(53.3%) of the local members indicated that they were not involved in the operations and running of the road project. It was also revealed that donors made decisions about developmental projects as indicated by majority 80(59.2%). Findings on the challenges faced by the community in the participation in Nyamira County road development projects revealed that majority 90(66.7%) of the members said that there were problems encountered in participation of the community. This agreed with the local leaders' responses as they indicated that the resources to facilitate participatory planning were inadequate. The local leaders added that some of problems were associated with community participatory as the

technology adapted was complex hence less educated members participated. There were challenges related to human and financial resources. According to Constantino (1982), experts from donor agencies always dominate as they are providing funds so they make decisions about developmental projects. Professional experts forget their role of facilitation and development.

5.4 Conclusions

Based on the findings, the study concluded that there were factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development project. The community members were not aware about the of the road project. The development projects undertaken in their locality had not been implemented through participation of all. The study also concluded that members did not participate in planning of road development project in Nyamira County. The study also concluded that even the local leaders were not involved in project planning and implementation as indicated by majority. It was also concluded that community members viewed that opinions of every one were not heard and respected. The study also concluded that decision making influenced community participation in Nyamira County road development project. The community around were not involved in the management of road development projects. The road development project was run by people from other areas while the local people did not appreciate community development and their attitudes towards participating in community development projects were not favorable. The study also concluded that there were social factors that influenced community participation in Nyamira County road development projects.

The local members indicated that education level influenced the participation of the community in the development projects at a high extent. It was also concluded that managerial involvement influenced community participation in Nyamira County road development projects. The local members indicated that they were not involved in the operations and running of the road projects. It was also revealed that donors made decisions about road developmental projects.

There were challenges faced by the community in the participation in Nyamira County road development projects revealed that members said that there were problems encountered in participation of the community.

5.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following were the recommendations of the study.

The study has revealed that the community was not involved in decision making. The main contention behind people's participation in development is that real development must be people-centered. As Jazairy (1989) notes that projects conceived and implemented by outside organizations have failed because adequate consideration was not given to the importance of local participation.

The study also revealed that lack of community empowerment was a factor that hindered them from their participation in the projects. The study recommended that the local community should be empowered through education so that they fully participated in development projects. The community people should be included in all phases of development projects from the process of needs assessment for the design and Development of a project, through project implementation to project monitoring and evaluation.

The study has revealed that without meaningful participation of the local people in the development process, sustainable improvement in the standard of living of the people cannot be achieved. In view of the findings of the study, it was recommended that the poor and the disadvantaged, characterized by social, economic and political backwardness, are traditionally and culturally neglected in planning and implementation of development projects. Some structural changes can bring awareness and power among the marginalized groups breaking the traditional patterns. However, desired outcomes may not come overnight. In this context, local NGOs working with the marginalized section in the rural areas need to be included in the local development process through public opinion mobilization, design and planning process. This may gradually help to institutionalize the participatory practices in the development process.

The study has revealed that the community has not been involved in the management of the projects. The elected community representatives at management level are mostly unaware about the benefits of participatory development approach. Lack of knowledge in this regard on their part may have contributed to their misunderstanding and misconception. Launching training programs or workshops may help change the mindset of the elected representatives regarding participatory practices in development interventions.

The study also recommends that the management should be empowered so that they are able to participate in development projects. Participatory budgeting needs to be introduced in the projects with a view to integrating community people in the development project cycle. In this context, representatives from different social groups should be trained so that they can articulate their demands properly and make meaningful contributions to local development planning.

5.6 Suggestions for further research

Taking the limitations and delimitations of the study, the following were suggestions for further research

- i. An analysis of the influence of the level of education on community participation in community road development projects.
- ii. A study on the influence of the community's attitude on implementing community road development projects.
- iii. A study on community level of empowerment for the successful completion of community road development projects.
- iv. A study on community preference of road development projects and their participation in such projects.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

This questionnaire is meant to collect data on the factors influencing community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Nyamira County road development projects. Please do not write your name on the questionnaire. Kindly provide answers to the questions as honestly and precisely as possible. Indicate your choice by a tick (✓). Kindly answer all the questions

Section A: Demographic Information:

1. Please indicate your gender

Male [] Female []

2. Indicate your age

25 – 30 years []

31 – 35 years []

36 – 40 years []

41 – 45 years []

46 – 50 years []

51 and above []

3. Educational Status

Illiterate { } Primary School { }

Secondary School { } Degree and Above { }

4. Occupation

Farmers { } Business Service/trade { }

Unskilled labors { } Skilled labors { }

Section A: Establish factors affecting community participation in Nyamira road development projects

5. Do you know anything about the functions of the Nyamira County road development project?

Yes { } No { }

6. Do you think that the development projects undertaken in your locality have been implemented through participation of all?

Yes { } No { }

7. Do you participate in planning of Nyamira road development project? Yes { } No { }

8. Were other local people involved in project planning and implementation?

Yes { } No { }

9. If the answer is „Yes, how the local people are involved?

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

10. Were the opinions of every one heard and respected?

Yes { } No { }

11. How do you rank the level of participation of community people at road development project?

Lowest { } Medium { } Highest { }

Section B: Establish how involvement in decision making influence community participation in Nyamira road development project.

12. Is the community aware of the Nyamira road development project?

Yes { }

No { }

Not sure { }

13. Do you think the community around your area is involved in the management of Road development projects?

Yes { }

No { }

Not sure { }

14. Nyamira road development project is run by people from other areas

Strongly Agree { }

Agree { }

Disagree { }

Undecided { }

Strongly disagree { }

15. Have you ever been called for a meeting concerning Nyamira road development projects?

Yes { }

No { }

Not sure { }

16. Who had the final say in the public meeting.....

Section C: Determine how social factors affect community participation in Nyamira County road development projects.

17. Which of the following characteristic mostly influence the participation of the community in the development projects

a) Educational level { }

High extent { }

Low extent { }

b) Attitude of the community members

High extent { }

Low extent { }

18. Educated people participate more in the Nyamira County road development projects.

Strongly Agree { }

Agree { }

Disagree { }

Undecided { }

Strongly disagree { }

Section D: Influence of managerial involvement on community participation in Nyamira County road development projects.

19. Are you involved in the operations of the Nyamira County road development project?

Yes { } No { }

Section E: Establish challenges faced by the community in the participation in Nyamira County road development projects.

24. Are there any problems encountered in participation of the community?

Yes { } No { }

25. If yes what are those problems?

26. Do you think community participation in planning, implementation and management of road project leads to the effective and sustainable communication services?

Yes { } No { }

27. Do you think the project is helpful to the community?

28. Yes { } No{ }

29. If the challenges are solved what areas do you think the project will have impact in the development?

30. What are your suggestions to incorporate all walks of people in the development process?

Thank you for your cooperation

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE LOCAL LEADERS

1. How many community road development projects are there in your region?
2. Out of these road projects how many are complete?
3. What was the role of the community in planning stage at the village level?
4. To your understanding what does it mean by community participation?
5. What steps were taken by the funding agency to make sure that the project is understood, accepted and institutionalized, given the experiences of people about mistrust of some development agencies officials?
6. What communication methodologies are employed to communicate with the people during all stages of the project implementation?
7. How did community participate in the planning processes?
8. Were there enough resources to facilitate participatory planning? Explain.
9. How long does it take to put the people into discussion given their low level of understanding?
10. Were there problems associated with community participatory? If any, mention them

Thank you for your cooperation

