

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS
UNDER THE DEVOLVED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE IN KENYA:
A CASE OF MERU COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

BY

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the Award of A Degree of Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management of the
University of Nairobi**

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DECLARATION

Declaration by the Student:

I declare that this research project is my own original work and it has not been presented in this or any other institution for any award.

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Declaration by the Supervisor:

This research project has been presented for examination with my approval as the university of Nairobi supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my loving wife Doreen Kaloki and my children Priscah, Escriva, Felicity and Ethan for their moral support during the period of struggle for this degree. Their contribution towards my success is invaluable.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

A.C	Autonomous Communities
CONAGUA	Comision Nacional Del Agua (National Water Commission)
EWP	Ebro Water Point
ICFFW	Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales
P.B	Participatory Budgeting
REPOA	Research on Poverty Alleviation
RWSSP	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme
SHG	Self Help Groups
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
WRUA	Water Resources Users Associations
YWC	Ythan Water Catchment

ABSTRACT

Informed by the failure of centralized governments to effectively implement water projects, devolved water governance was tied to the promise of improved citizenry access to water. However, the devolved implementation of water projects continues to face a myriad of challenges and influenced by various factors. This study specifically investigated the influence of; community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political goodwill on the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance. The study was guided by Allocative Efficiency and Community Participation theories. The study employed descriptive survey research design. The target population was Ministry of Water and Natural resources employees 126, Ward administrators and assistants 108 and Members of County Assembly 69. The sample size was 38 (n=38) Ministry of Water and Natural resources employees, 32 (n=32) Ward administrators and assistants and 21 Members of County Assembly that was selected to participate in the study. Stratified and Simple random sampling techniques were used to pick the respondents. Questionnaires were used to collect data from Ministry of Water and Natural resources employees and Ward administrators and assistants while an interview guide was used to collect data from Members of County Assembly in the study locale. Data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) version 21.0 and was presented in frequency and percentage tables. The study established that community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political goodwill all influenced the implementation of water projects under devolved system of governance in Meru County, Kenya. Majority of the respondents as shown by 70% agreed that community participation in the implementation of county funded water projects enhanced projects' sustainability. Majority of the respondents as shown by a Mean of 4.41 agreed that the successful implementation of county funded water projects leads to the economic empowerment of the populace in Meru County. Further, the results of this research as shown by 70% of respondents have revealed that supremacy battles between the two levels of governance exist adversely influencing the implementation of water projects at the devolved governance level. 63% of respondents agreed that the existence of high levels of bureaucracy adversely influenced the implementation of water projects consequently influencing access to water in the county under study. The study concludes that though the Intergovernmental Relations Act Kenya 2012 guiding central and county governments working relations exists, the continued sour relations adversely influencing implementation of water projects portray failure by both levels of governance to enforce this law. It can also be concluded that, adequate financial resources disbursed in good time are key drivers of the implementation of water projects in Meru County. From the findings, the study recommends that both levels of government need to design and harmonize projects' funds disbursement procedures that expedite implementation process. The study also recommends that county governments through their respective county assemblies enact community participation procedures that enhance projects' implementation. The study also recommends that the government with the help other development partners should put in place strong policy measures that curb political patronage impeding implementation of water projects under the devolved system. Research could be done on similar topic on other County governments in Kenya for comparison and generalization purposes.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Globally, access to clean water for drinking and other domestic purposes remains an insurmountable challenge for 783 million people especially the rural populace mainly due to the unsustainable management of natural water resources and poor public service delivery strategies by governments (Giupponi, *et al.*, 2006; Onda, LoBuglio and Bartram, 2012). Embedded in the belief of improving this situation through efficient service delivery and implementation of water projects, governments adopted devolution of the water function (Cheema and Rondinelli, 2007).

This proved by the earnest governments' desire to improve access to safe drinking water in several European countries including; Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Poland and United Kingdom have been reported to have informed decision to devolve this public service provision function (Cheema, 2007). The immediate need to achieve better public service delivery and in particular access to water did inform devolved governance of this function in Papua New Guinea (May, 2006). In Africa, the continued need for better public service delivery including access to clean water did inform the devolution of water administration by the governments of: South Africa, Uganda and Rwanda (Kauzya, 2007)

In Europe, devolution has had a mixture of results in terms of implementation of water projects. Devolved water governance has Calamai (2009) been faced with a myriad of financial resources challenges with disparities in financial disbursements for water projects under devolution to enhance access in the different regional governments of Italy resulting to 15% of regions facing water challenges while others enjoying sufficient supply. However, devolution of water management to improve access was successful with 95% of Autonomous Communities (A.C) in Spain having implemented water projects (Solé-Ollé and Alejandro, 2005). Access to clean water improved with 75% in the Czech Republic under devolution, this resulting from the implementation of better fiscal decentralization structures leading to timely funding of water projects by municipalities (Hemmings, 2006). Strong fiscal decentralization structures Barankay and Ben (2006) to different Cantons did

enhance access to clean water emanating also from the successful implementation of water projects in Switzerland.

Devolution did according to White and Smoke, (2005) created new aspirations among citizens in East Asia on better delivery of public services including an enhanced access to clean water. However, weak fiscal decentralization structures according to Malik (2008) in Asian countries did adversely influence the implementation of public service projects such as water projects under a devolved system of governance negatively influencing access to clean water. A good example is a report by the World Bank on Indonesia through which it is argued that water projects are left at the appraisal and due diligence stage due to delayed disbursement of project funds negatively influencing access to water (World Bank, 2007). However, community participation according to Widianingsih (2005) did significantly influence the implementation of water projects under devolution and consequently access to water in Indonesia. In Cambodia, failure to effectively involve communities and delayed financial disbursements derailed the implementation of water projects by Commune Councils adversely influencing access to water meant for irrigation and domestic use in the country (Chea, 2010 ; Pak, 2011). Budgetary reforms undertaken by the 20 provincial governments operating under devolution positively influenced the implementation of water projects consequently improving access to clean drinking water in Papua New Guinea (Kua, 2006).

In South America, different scholars have different views on the role of devolved units in the provision (Ahmad E. a., 2007) of water through the implementation of water projects. For instance in Mexico, poor water systems according to González-Rivas (2012) emanating from poor funding of most local governments by the national government and the failure to embrace community participation in some areas had derailed implementation of water projects due to resistance by the community adversely influencing clean water access. In Peru, participatory development according to Brinkerhoff *et al.*, (2007) in all the 25 regional governments did significantly influence the implementation of water projects initiated by regional governments and access to water. However, poor fiscal management according to Ahmad and Mercedes (2007) under devolution did adversely influence the implementation of water projects in Peru. In Nicaragua, community involvement by 9 out of the 15

departmental governments was an important factor in the implementation of water projects consequently improving access (Bay, 2011). Further, in Bolivia poor access to water according to Inchauste (2008) emanated from high debts incurred by the 9 departmental governments which had negatively influenced availability of financial resources adversely influencing the implementation of water projects in the country.

In Africa, Forje (2006) did contend that devolution promises better delivery of public services to citizens in the continent, key among these being access to clean water. However, in Nigeria poor access to clean water Nkwocha (2008) notes was as a result of poor funding of water projects, which had adversely influenced their implementation process in the Niger delta region. In South Africa, also poor access to clean water according to Matta and Ashkenas (2003) emanated from a poor rate of flow of project's financial resources that adversely influenced the implementation of community water projects under provincial governments. Local government's failure to involve local communities did influence access to local labour adversely influencing the implementation of water projects and access to clean water (Thwala, 2007). In Namibia, community participation according to Nekwaya (2007) did expedite the implementation of water supply projects at the Omusati Regional Council consequently improving water access. In Tanzania, access to clean water according to Liviga (2011) had gradually improved under devolution this emanating from the successful implementation of water projects in rural areas attributed to: embracing of community participation, timely transfer of projects' funds from the central government and cordial intergovernmental relations. In Kenya, it is the aspiration of the citizenry access to water would improve under the devolved system of governance (Burugu, 2010). In Meru County, access to safe water remains a challenge despite The County government of Meru having allocated millions of shillings for the implementation of water projects (Kimathi, 2014).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In many developing countries, governance of the water sector as a whole is in a state of confusion and dysfunction with little responsiveness or accountability to citizens (Tropp, 2005). This can be attributed to the inefficient delivery of public services that has been impeded by the highly centralized government bureaucracies (Mwabu, *et al.*, 2001).In

Kenya, the non-essential layers of government under the centralized system of government had hindered the efficient provision of water resulting to slightly less than half of the rural population not able to access water, as opposed to the urban population where 85 percent have access to safe water (World Bank, 2011).

However, with the introduction of devolution, Kenyans expected institutional responsiveness to service delivery especially in the water sector that would solve water scarcity in their counties. Notwithstanding, the implementation of water projects in the many counties is influenced by a multiplicity of factors. Oyugi and Kibua, (2008) observed, where a decentralized system of government exists without leading to the realization of improved quality of service delivery, a question is often asked: what is the problem? .The Meru County Government allocated Ksh.430 million in the financial year 2014/2015 for the implementation of water projects, but only 20% of people in Meru County have access to clean and safe drinking (Kimathi, 2014). Most of these projects have stalled due to issues such as; lack of technical personnel, conflicts with the national government, late disbursement of projects' funds, lack of community participation which has resulted to lack of project ownership and project sustainability. The situation further complicates the lives of constituents in some sub-counties forcing them to both walk for long distances in search of water and spend huge sums of money. For instance, it has been reported that constituents of Igembe North spend KSh.64 million annually on purchasing water from commercial water vendors (Kimathi, 2014). All these has resulted to the continued reporting of high occurrence of water borne diseases, stagnation of agricultural productivity due to climate change and economic disempowerment of the people of Meru County.

1.3 Purpose of the study

This study sought to investigate the factors that influence the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County. Specifically the study looked at the influence of; community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political goodwill factors. The purpose of the study was hence to establish the factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were;

1. To determine the influence of community participation on the implementation of water projects.
2. To assess how financial resources influence the implementation of water projects.
3. To establish the influence of intergovernmental relations on the implementation of water projects.
4. To determine the influence of political goodwill on the implementation of water projects.

1.5 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions;

1. What is the influence of community participation factors on the implementation of water projects?
2. How do financial resources influence the implementation of water projects?
3. To what extent do intergovernmental relations influence water projects?
4. To what extent does political goodwill influence implementation of water projects?

1.6 Hypothesis

H₀ There is no relationship between the combined influence of community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political goodwill on the implementation of water projects.

1.7 Significance of the study

It was hoped that the findings of this study will be useful to stakeholders in the water sector such as the County Government, NGOs, donors, community members and other interested stakeholders in coming up with sustainable interventions to improve domestic water access in Meru County. The information gathered in this study is also expected to be useful to planners in formulating policies aimed at developing water related infrastructure particularly under rural development initiative that will be expected to enhance the quality of life .

Finally, the study is also expected to add to the existing body of knowledge by proposing possible areas of future research.

1.8 Limitation of the study

The study was limited to access to water as a result of the implementation of water projects in Meru County. It only concentrated on water projects initiated by the County Government of Meru within the county and therefore did not study other projects like; agriculture, road infrastructure and projects under health care. The study was limited to four key variables; community participation, financial resources, inter-governmental and political goodwill and how these influence implementation of water projects by the county government of Meru. Water projects implemented under the devolved system of governance may be influenced by other factors not covered by the study.

1.9 Delimitation of the study

The scope of the study was water projects implemented by the County government of Meru in the entire Meru County. The respondents were employees of ministry of water and natural resources, ward administrators and assistant ward administrators and members of the Meru County assembly. This study investigated on how community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political goodwill factors influence the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County.

1.10 Assumption of the study

The study assumed that the sample population chosen voluntarily participated in the study and that the respondents were honest in their reporting and in answering the questionnaire. It was assumed that the respondent understood the questions in the interview schedule even through the help of an interpreter and respond objectively. Lastly, the researcher assumed that respondents were aware of factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance.

1.11 Definition of significant terms used in the Study

Community Participation

This refers to the well laid out plans of involving other stakeholders such as religious organizations, academic institutions, and local community leaders from different social and business sectors in both the decision making process and the implementation of water projects implemented by devolved units.

Devolved system of governance

This is governance at a sub-national level, such as a regional, local, county or state level government. In this study this is how this type of governance influences the implementation of water projects either through its failure to embrace participation by the local community, or influence brought about by political goodwill, funding made available to it or its relations with the central government.

Financial Resources

Refers to money that is devolved from the central government meant to implement development projects in relation to this study is water projects at the devolved units (County level). In Kenya; the national government devolves 45% of national revenue to the 47 counties.

Intergovernmental Relations

This refers to the existing working relationship between the national government and devolved units (counties). These affects the implementation of water projects as determines the devolution of human/ technical or financial

resources from the national to the devolved units.

Political Goodwill

Putting in place political measures that will positively or negatively influence and expedite the implementation of high quality standards through the enactment of favorable water laws that facilitate the allocation of sufficient funds and also mitigate bureaucratic tendencies in the handing of tenders to water projects contractors.

Implementation of Water Projects

It is the drilling and construction of unique water sources such as boreholes and dams and the acquisition of water storage facilities such as water tanks undertaken either by regional, local, county or state level government through development funding devolved from the national governments which enable citizens' access to clean and safe drinking water.

1.12 Organization of the Study

This study was organized into five chapters. Chapter One introduction covering; background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study which explained what the study intended to accomplish, research objectives and research question, significance of the study. The significance of the study justifies the reason for my study. This chapter also highlights delimitation and limitation of the study, and assumptions of the study.

Chapter Two reviewed literature of the study. This chapter brings out what previous researchers have found out in the area of study. This chapter covers how various independent variables: community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations, political interference and technical skills factors influence on the implementation of water projects under devolution from a global point of view narrowing down to the local level. It will also cover theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

Chapter Three is Research methodology covering; research design, target population, sampling procedure which will be discuss in detail how the sample for this study will be selected. It will also cover methods of data collection, validity and reliability of data collection instruments.

Chapter Four covered data analysis, presentation and interpretation of findings, based on background information and on four variables under study which include; community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental relations and political interference.

Chapter Five covers summary of findings, discussions of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. It will also provide suggestions for further studies.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter delves into previous literature on the factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance. The theoretical framework and the conceptual framework that guided the study are clearly explained.

2.2 Implementation of Water Projects

In their study, Jaramillo and Alcázar, (2013) observed community participation in the form of participatory budgeting (P.B) had an insignificant relationship with the number of water projects implemented by regional governments in Peru. This they noted that was as a result of poor policy strategies of enhancing collaboration between citizens, regional governments and other stakeholders in the P.B process (Jaramillo and Alcázar, 2013). In a study, Faguet (2012) found evidence on a significant relationship between devolved water governance and improved agricultural productivity in some municipalities in Bolivia. Further, he observed financial investment in water infrastructure by municipal governments significantly increased crop yields positively influencing the economic empowerment of residents (Faguet, 2012).

In their study, Cazcarro et al., (2015) observed the funding of water projects by Autonomous Communities (A.C) governments led to the expedited implementation of water projects resulting to improved agricultural productivity in these devolved governance levels in Spain. Further, they note this had significantly improved agricultural incomes earned by rural farmers leading to their economic empowerment (Cazcarro et al., 2015). Similar evidence Shygonskyj and Shygonska, (2016) who observed the availability of financial resources did significantly influence the implementation of water projects by Oblasts in Ukraine. They noted that this was important in the reduction of reported cases of water borne diseases in public hospitals under the management of these devolved units of governance (Shygonskyj and Shygonska, 2016).

In a study, Machete (2011) noted failure by a provincial government to implement water projects did have a significant negative influence on the health and economic empowerment

of citizens residing in the province in South Africa. This he contends did in particular have adverse effects on crop yields of rural farmers negatively influencing incomes from agriculture and the overall livelihoods province (Machete, 2011). Further, in a study Bemspång and Segerström (2009) found evidence failure to fund water projects by regional governments adversely influenced access to safe drinking and clean water in these devolved units of governance in Tanzania. They observed this resulted to an increase in reported cases of water borne diseases and adversely influenced income levels among women as they spend most of their time fetching water (Bemspång and Segerström, 2009). In their study, Kiprono and Wanyoike (2016) noted a county government had funded the implementation of water projects. Further, they observed these projects did improve agricultural productivity in the county resulting to the economic empowerment of its residents (Kiprono and Wanyoike, 2016).

2.3 Community Participation and Implementation of Water Projects

Citizen participation is a process by which people act in response to public concerns, voice their opinions about decisions that affect them, and take responsibility for changes to their community. Their support results in the sustainability of community project (Armitage *et al.*, 2007). In addition, community involvement in projects is celebrated by different scholars (González Rivas, 2014; van Koppen, Cossio Rojas, and Skielboe, 2012, Kiogora, 2013;) as an important aspect that positively influences the implementation of such projects because it creates avenues for the community to provide labor, raw materials and also demand for transparency in funds management. In a study, McNeill (2008) revealed that water projects implemented by regional councils that involved local communities exhibited high rates of completion and sustainability in New Zealand. This he notes was because the communities owned the projects and therefore provided raw materials and labour for the projects (McNeill, 2008). Similar evidence by Lennox, Proctor and Russell (2011) who observed that stakeholder involvement by regional councils in the implementation of water projects expedites the implementation process. They argued that because involving the community does reduce project's costs as the beneficiary or host community does provide raw materials needed at low prices and provides cheap labour and at times volunteers (Lennox *et al.*, 2011). In a study by, Esonu and Kavanamur (2011) stakeholders' participation did positively

influence the successful implementation of water projects implemented by the Wampar Local-Level Government in Morobe provincial government in Papua New Guinea. Further, they postulated this was because the host communities had provided; raw materials at affordable prices, labor at cheap wage rates and owned the projects thereby enhancing projects' sustainability (Esonu and Kavanamur, 2011).

In Europe community participation was found to be an important factor in the successful implementation of water projects. In a study, Zooneveld (2001) observed that municipalities that involved the community in the implementation of water projects were successful in the implementation of the projects because the community owned the process in the Netherlands. Similar evidence by Juuti, Katako and Rajala (2005) who observed that regional governments had discovered that failure to involve the beneficiary communities in water supply projects, had adverse influence on the implementation of these projects in Finland. This resulted to project teams' inaccessibility to locally available raw materials and the host communities charging high wages for their labor due to the non-existence of community consultation from the initial stages of project formulation (Juuti *et al.*, 2005). Similar evidence by Albiac, Hanemann, Calatrava, Uche and Tapia (2006) who observed that failure to involve the community had resulted to the failure of The Ebro Water point (EWP) project in Spain. This they contend led to the failure by host communities to support the project (Albiac *et al.*, 2006). In a study, Morris and Morris (2005) who observed The Ythan water catchment project (YWC) was more sustainable due to an effective process adopted by project teams on community involvement in Scotland. They further, argue that community participation in the The Ythan water catchment project did make the project more sustainable because project teams acquired labour and raw materials for project implementation from the local beneficiary community leading to project completion (Morris and Morris, 2005).

The prerequisite for community involvement in the successful implementation of water projects under devolution is not unique to Europe, similar findings have been reported in South America. In a study, Whittington *et al.*, (2009) observed that local governments and regional governments respectively embraced community participation in water projects experienced successful implementation in Bolivia and Peru. The importance of community

participation for successful implementation of water projects under devolution is emphasized in Chile (Bow, 2002). He however contends that regional governments that involved local communities in the implementation of water projects, reported positive results than those that did not (Bow, 2002). Further, in a study Larson (2002) observed that failure by the local governments to involve local communities in the implementations of water affected the access to local materials in Nicaragua. This she observed was because of community resistance resulting to inflated projects implementation leading to derailed water projects in rural Nicaragua (Larson, 2002).

In study, Carias (2007) observed that the provision of local raw materials and demand for transparency in the utilization of funds positively correlated to the implementation of water projects in Colombia. This he further notes that these were only achieved in water projects that embraced community participation in the implementation process (Carias, 2007). In a study, Rodríguez-Pose and Bwire (2004) noted that failure to involve beneficiary community for the implementation of water supply projects under devolution resulted to project failure. This they contend resulted from failure to access labor at affordable rates and raw materials for the projects from beneficiary communities in Mexico, (Rodríguez-Pose and Bwire 2004). Similar evidence by Mansuri and Rao (2011) who observed that water projects that were implemented by local governments' that had embraced participation of local communities were more successful and sustainable than those implemented by local governments that did not embrace community participation. Further, they argued this was because where community participation existed, affordable labour and raw materials from the host communities were easily accessible and the community owned the projects resulting to successful project implementation at the devolved governance levels (Mansuri and Rao, 2011).

Studies in Asian countries with a devolved system of governance emphasize the importance of community involvement in the implementation of water projects. In a study, Arriens and Alejandiro (2003) found that, regional governments and municipalities that embraced community involvement reported the successful identification and implementation of water projects in the Philippines (Arriens and Alejandiro, 2003). Similar evidence by Sharma (2005) postulates that community participation was an important factor in the successful

implementation of water projects in rural Philippines. In a study, Yuerlita and Saptom, (2008) observed that in provinces where local government embraced community participation in the implementation of water projects, success was achieved in comparison to those that neglected the importance of involving the community. Similar evidence by Ito (2006) who observed that involving local community leaders such as religious leaders, women's group leaders and academic institutions heads by local governments had a positive relationship in the successful implementation of water projects under provincial governments in rural Indonesia. Further, he argued this was because community participation provided avenues to access raw materials, demand for transparency in the utilization of funds and provision of cheap labour (Ito, 2006). In his study, Fritzen (2007) re-emphasizing that community involvement minimizes chances of elite capture. In a study, Hoedeman *et al.*, (2005) observed that community participation influenced the successful of water supply projects implemented by local governments running under 47 prefectures in Japan. Further, they argued that prefectures that fully involved community in the implementation of water projects enjoyed advantages such as; access to raw materials and cheap labor (Hoedeman, *et al.*, 2005).

The importance of community participation in the implementation of water projects is not unique to Asia but it is also vital in Africa. In a study, Gebremdhin (2004) observed that people participation was an important aspect in the successful implementation of water projects in rural South Africa. Similar evidence by Bengu, *et al.*, (2008) who contends that community involvement plays a key role in the sustainability of water projects in South Africa. In a study, Akinbile *et al.*, (2006) observed that water projects that embraced community participation in Oyun local government in Kwara state were more sustainable than those that did involve the community in Nigeria. They further contend that this was because these projects enjoyed provision of labor at lower wage rates and access to rural materials needed in the construction of such projects and better planning of projects which meant that the projects were located in a sustainable area (Akinbile,*et al.*, 2006).

Studies in Eastern Africa also emphasize the need for community participation in the implementation of water projects. In a study, Ahmed and Mwambo (2004) observed that water projects that engaged the beneficiary community were more sustainable because the

community owned the projects and provided labor at the construction stage in Tanzania. Similar evidence by TREECARE, (2005) did also re-emphasize the importance of involving the community in the implementation of water projects, as this was believed to make the projects at the devolved governance levels more sustainable. In a study, Mwakila (2008) found that, regional governments embraced the involvement of beneficiaries' communities in the implementation of water projects in Tanzania. He argued that this enhanced project ownership by the beneficiary community which led to successful implementation of water projects because the community provided; raw materials needed, security and cheap labour (Mwakila, 2008). However, in a study, Mukakalisa and Mukasine (2009) observed that failure to involve local communities in the design and implementation of water projects under devolved governance in rural Rwanda resulted to derailed implementation of water supply projects. Further, they contend that this emanated from failure by local governments' project teams to access cheap labor and raw materials from the community adversely influencing the implementation process (Mukakalisa and Mukasine, 2009).

Community participation Ngile (2015) played a significant role in the implementation of water projects by a devolved unit of governance whose main goal was to improve access to water in a sub-county in Kenya. This he noted was mainly through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) which provided affordable labour and raw materials positively influencing the implementation of water projects (Ngile, 2015). In a study, Miruka (2016) observed that failure to adopt community participation did adversely influence the implementation of water projects under a county government in Kenya. This he notes did result to lack of community monitoring and evaluation of water projects adversely influencing the implementation of these projects leading to poor access to water in this county (Miruka, 2016). Similar evidence by, Mutwiri (2016) indicated that lack of awareness among the community did inhibit its participation on the planning process of development projects such as water projects in Meru County. This he noted did influence the county government's projects prioritization strategy consequently derailing the implementation of water projects and negatively influencing access to water in Meru County (Mutwiri, 2016).

2.4 Financial Resources and Implementation of Water Projects

Poor fiscal decentralization structures in developing countries that have a devolved system of governance are a major hindrance to the provision of public services like; water and health (De Mello, 2011). The existence of these poor structures of fiscal decentralization have been found to presents challenges of delayed disbursements and issues of accountability both of which have adverse effects on the implementation of public service projects (Rodden,2002). In a study, Smoke (2001) observed that low budgetary allocations and late disbursement to the local departmental governments derailed the implementation of water projects in Bolivia. This he further noted emanated from failure by departmental governments to meet their financial obligations in the project implementation process adversely influencing the completion of water projects and consequently access to water at these devolved levels of governance (Smoke, 2001). Similar evidence by Faguet (2004) who notes low budgetary allocations and untimely disbursements negatively influenced the implementation of water projects by the local governments negatively influencing water access in Bolivia. In a study, these findings were disputed by the government of Bolivia that postulated that it devolve sufficient funds as stipulated under the constitution (Government of Bolivia, 2008). In their study, Faguet and Fabio (2013) observed that local governments face financial challenges when implementing water projects in rural constituencies in Colombia. This they noted resulted from low financial resources allocations from the central government to the local governments adversely influencing the completion of water projects and consequently access to water (Faguet and Fabio, 2013). In a study, insufficient financial resources were a major contributor to failure in the implementation of water projects by local governments in Nicaragua (Larson, 2002).

In a study, Martinez-Vazquez and Mncab (2003) observed that poor fiscal decentralization structures in the central governments that delay disbursement of projects' finances to the regional governments adversely influenced the implementation of water projects at the devolved governance levels. This they contend created major hindrances in the implementation of water projects as it resulted to insufficient financial resources in rural Peru (Martinez-Vazquez and Mncab, 2003). Similar evidence reported by Ahmad and Mercedes, (2011) who postulated that late disbursements did have adverse influence on the

implementation of water projects in Peru. This they observed interfered with purchase of raw materials and payment of wages breeding strikes among project workers consequently influencing water projects implementation and access to water (Ahmad and Mercedes, 2011). In a study, Ahmad *et al.*, (2008) did contend that failure to come up with local sources of funds to finance public service projects as directed by the Comision Nacional Del Agua (CONAGUA) coupled with late disbursements from the central government did adversely influence implementation of water under devolution in Mexico.

In a study, Baietti and Peter (2005) observe that availability of funds and water projects in Scotland, report that local governments face financial issues that derail the implementation of water projects. In a study, Hallerberg, Strauch and von-Hagen (2009) observed that well laid out fiscal decentralization structures that enabled the devolution of funds from the central government did influence the implementation of water projects by provincial governments in The Netherlands. This they did note created an enabling environment for the timely provision of financial resources needed to implement water projects consequently influencing access to water (Hallerberg, *et al.*, 2009). Similar evidence by the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales (ICFFW) postulated that water projects implemented under devolution received sufficient funding a situation that expedited their implementation in Wales (Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales, 2009).

In a study, Garcia-Milà *et al.*, (2002) observed that poor fiscal decentralization structures did have adversely influence the implementation of water projects by Autonomous Communities (A.C) in Spain. This they noted had left most A.C governments in debts such that they could not implement water projects adversely influencing access to water at these devolved governance levels (Garcia-Milà *et al.*, 2002). However, in a comparative study Rodríguez-Pose and Krøijer (2009) observed that fiscal decentralization in countries in Central Europe with a devolved system such as Spain was better than those in Eastern Europe like Serbia and Georgia. This they argued had led to the successful implementation of public service projects particularly water projects in countries such as Spain improving access to water at the devolved levels of governance (Rodríguez-Pose and Krøijer, 2009). In a study, Bartolini and Santolini (2009) however observed that high-level corruption among

politicians in municipalities was to blame for insufficient financial resources allocated for water projects in Italy. This they postulated led to both the delayed implementation of water projects and resulted to the complete failure of some adversely influencing access to water (Bartolini and Santolini, 2009). Similar evidence by Balduzzi and Grembi (2011) argued that weak fiscal allocation laws in Italian municipalities were to blame for failed provision of public services projects and in particular; water projects. This they noted had in particular influenced the amounts of financial resources allocated for municipal governments' water projects leading to stalled projects and consequently influencing access to water (Balduzzi and Grembi, 2011).

In a study, Chamberlain (2005) reports that regional governments were are timely provided with financial resources by the national government to implement water projects in their respective regions in New Zealand. This he noted did expedite the implementation of water projects and consequently improving access to water (Chamberlain, 2005). Similar evidence postulated that the national government in New Zealand timely provides money for implementation of water projects that expedites the implementation of these projects (Hawke, 2006). Contrary evidence by Claridge and Kerr (2011) who in their study observed that devolved regional government councils faced financial challenges in implementing water projects in the country. This they further contend did negatively influence the implementation of water projects by these devolved governance units adversely influencing access to water (Claridge and Kerr, 2011).

However, in a study Shah *et al.*,(2004) observed that corruption and poor financial management by regional governments and municipalities adversely influenced the successful implementation of water projects in the Philippines. This they argued resulted to diversion of financial resources meant for the implementation of water projects leading to either most projects stalling at the foundation stage or halfway done adversely influencing access to water (Shah *et al.*, 2004). Similar evidence by Sagar (2006) postulated that high levels of corruption influenced the amount of financial resources allocated to municipalities for the implementation of water projects in both Philippines and Indonesia. This he also notes negatively influenced the implementation of water projects at the devolved units of governance in these countries consequently influencing access to water (Sagar, 2006). In a

study, Smoke and Morrison (2008) also observed that poor fiscal decentralization structures that resulted to late disbursements did negatively influencing the implementation of water projects at the devolved governance levels in Cambodia. This they argued did also exhibit negative influence on access to water by the populace living in these devolved units of governance (Smoke and Morrison, 2008).

In study by Brineco-Garmendia *et al.*, (2008) who contend that Sub-Saharan Africa has poor public services infrastructure models that delay the financing of important public projects such as water projects. This is worse in countries with the devolved system of governance as most of the projects' funds reach the implementing local government department behind project schedule (Brineco-Garmendia *et al.*, 2008). In a study Marah (2004) also observed issues related to availability of financial resources and their consequent disbursement to fund water projects at the local level delayed implementation of water projects even in urban South Africa. Similar evidence by Mainganye (2006) who argues late disbursements of funds meant to implement water projects did force local governments in South Africa to come up with local initiatives in the form of local government taxes to raise local revenues to fund the implementation of these projects. This does result to costs over-runs which make the implementation of water projects unaffordable and thereby unsustainable as observed by (Basson, 2008). Further, to avoid delays and cost over-runs that have negative influence in the implementation of water projects Van Vuuren, (2009) advises that central governments should work closely with devolved units to improve the process of fiscal decentralization. In a study, Falk *et al.*, (2009) observed that polycentrism did expedite the disbursement of water projects' funds that had a positive influence in the implementation of these projects in rural Namibia. In his study Mmari (2005) observed that late disbursements did negatively influence the implementation process of water projects in Tanzania. Similar evidence noted that for successful implementation of water projects in rural Tanzania, proper budgetary processes at the regional government level and timely disbursements from the central government should be embraced to ensure public service projects such as water projects are implemented within project schedule (REPOA, 2008 ; Jiménez and Pérez-Foguet, 2010).

In his study, Adek (2016) observed that insufficient financial resources had adversely influenced the implementation of water projects undertaken by a county government in

Kenya. This he noted was as result of low allocation of financial resources by the national government and untimely funds disbursements both of which negatively influenced the implementation of water projects under this devolved unit of governance and access to water by citizens living in this area (Adek, 2016).

2.5 Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation of Water Project

The existence of mistrust and competition between national or central governments and regional governments, continues to be the biggest hurdle to the successful implementation of development and public service projects under the devolved system of governance (Robison, 2006). Similar evidence by Feiock (2004) exhibiting that competition, mistrust and intentions to sabotage are the biggest threats to public service projects implemented under the devolved system of governance.

The existence of a cordial relationship between the central government and regional governments positively influenced the allocation of resources for the implementation of water projects in New Zealand (Memon and Skelton, 2007). This they also found did improve access to water by citizenry living in these devolved units of governance (Memon and Skelton, 2007). Similar evidence by McNeill (2008) on an enabling environment for local councils in New Zealand did enhance the timely and effective implementation of water projects consequently improving on water access. This was because this relationship facilitated the exchange of technical personnel required for the implementation of water projects at devolved governance levels (McNeill, 2008). In a study by Gelu (2008) cordial relations between provincial governments and the national government played an important role in the successful implementation of public services projects and in particular the implementation of water projects in Papua New Guinea. Further, he notes that the cordial relationship did expedite the disbursements of sufficient funds and the exchange of qualified technical personnel that worked on the implementation of water projects consequently improving access to water under devolved governance (Gelu, 2008).

In a study by Silva (2004) cordial intergovernmental relations facilitated the success of the young Portuguese devolution system in the implementation of community projects and in particular water projects. Similar evidence by Tavares and Camões (2007) indicated that

cordial relationships not only between the central government and the 308 municipalities but also between the municipalities themselves did result to emergence of service contracts that expedited the exchange of technical personnel that facilitated the timely implementation of water projects especially in rural Portugal. Further, they note success was attributed to formal contracting, single-purpose ends and freedom of association between governments creating an enabling environment for municipal associations in improving access to water (Tavares and Camões, 2007).

Cases of mistrust and supremacy battles between the national government and regional governments Ongaro (2006) in Italy did delay the implementation of most regional projects and in particular water projects. He further, observed that this sour relationship had led to the delayed disbursement of project funds to regional governments from the national government leading to either the delay or the complete failure of water projects consequently influencing access to water (Ongaro, 2006). Similar evidence by Kantor (2006) who observed that conflicts of interests that arose from income generating ventures between the 12 provinces and 3 municipalities did influence the implementation of water projects by these devolved units of governance in the Netherlands. This he particularly contends negatively influenced access to water due to derailed implementation of water projects under devolved governance units (Kantor, 2006). Further, Keating and Alex (2009) contend that calls for more autonomy by regional governments in Spain are reported to have created rivalry with the central government especially in the area of taxes which derailed the disbursement of development funds to regional governments which had an adverse influence on the implementation of water projects. This they also note created suspicion with politicians aligned to the national government supporting laws that would witness the late disbursement of development financial resources resulting to the delayed commencement of public service water projects consequently influencing access to water (Keating and Alex, 2009).

In a study by Muramatsu and Farrukh (2001) who observed the existence of a good working relationship between its central and the 47 prefectures did positively influence the implementation of water projects in Japan. This good working relationship created an enabling environment for the exchange of technical personnel who assist in the

implementation of public service water projects consequently improving access to water. (Muramatsu and Farrukh, 2001). Similar evidence by Jacobs (2003) who observed the expansion of autonomy of municipalities in Japan did create an enabling environment for personnel exchanges between the central government and the 47 prefectures especially in the implementation of public utilities projects in particular water projects. This he notes did expedite the implementation of these projects under these devolved units of governance consequently improving access to water (Jacobs, 2003). However, in a study by Sujarwoto (2012) who observed poor relations between the central and provincial governments did derail the implementation of public services projects and in particular water projects in Indonesia. Further, he argues characterized by supremacy battles and conflicts over proceeds from natural resources this did limit amount of public service projects' funding from the central government negatively influencing implementation of water projects under devolved units of governance and consequently access to water (Sujarwoto, 2012).

The need for good intergovernmental relations for the successful implementation of water projects is not unique to Asia but also present in South America. In a study, Manoel and Grembi (2012) did emphasize that good working intergovernmental relations were a prerequisite for improved implementation of public service projects in the provision of water. Similar evidence by Serrano and Patricia (2011) indicating that sour intergovernmental relations did have negative influence on the implementation process of water projects under devolved units of governance in Peru. This they contend characterized by failure to transfer technical personnel to devolved governance units that would have expedited the implementation of water projects consequently improving on its access (Serrano and Patricia 2011).

In a study, Budds and Hinojosa (2012) observed that conflicts over proceeds from natural mineral resources worsened relations between central and regional governments in Peru. This they contend had an adverse influence on the implementation of water projects under devolved governance consequently influencing access to water (Budds and Hinojosa, 2012). Similar evidence by Rosales (2012) in her study who observed sour relations between central government and regional governments in Chile did derail the implementation water projects. Further, she argues that these sour relations led to the disbursements of insufficient

funds for the implementation of water projects leaving most residents especially in urban Chile with no access to safe water (Rosales, 2012).

The important role played by intergovernmental relations is not unique to South America in the implementation of public services projects but it also does influence these projects in Africa as observed by (Mollel, 2011). In a study, Ekpo (2004) observed poor intergovernmental relations derailed disbursements of water projects' funds adversely affecting the implementation of these projects in Nigeria.. Similar evidence by Adele, (2008) who in his study pointed out that sour relations between the central government and state governments had adversely influenced the implementation of water projects in most states in Nigeria worst cases been reported in Niger Delta region. However, Warioba and Warioba (2012) did contend that reforms in the local governments did improve the intergovernmental relations between the local governments and the central government leading to an exchange in technical experts positively influencing the implementation of public service water projects consequently improving its access..

In a study Kamugisha (2014) observed that the cordial symbiotic relationship between the central government and local governments did contribute to the successful implementation of water projects at devolved governance levels in Tanzania. This he also argues did result to the exchange of technical experts expediting the implementation of water projects and consequently access to water (Kamugisha, 2014).

2.6 Political Goodwill and Implementation of Water Projects

Elite capture and patronage Heller *et al.*, (2007) observed increase projects' failure vulnerability in developing countries. High levels of bureaucracy and political competition resulting to the derailed enactment of favorable water laws adversely influenced the implementation process of water projects by local governments in Bolivia (Faguet, 2002). In a study by Sánchez (2000) also observed that, political patronage in local governments characterized by clientelism which resulted to bureaucratic tendencies in the implementation process was responsible for stalled water projects especially in rural Colombia. In their study, Ceballos and Hoyos (2004) re-emphasized this by demonstrating political sabotage of the enactment process of water laws derailed water projects budgetary allocations negatively

influencing the implementation of water projects in Colombia. Further, in a study Rodríguez Briseño (2008) did contend that clientelism did adversely influence the implementation of water supply projects in Mexico. Further, he observes that this characterized by bureaucratic tendencies in tendering water projects and the derailed enacted of water laws that would expedite the implementation of these projects negatively influenced access to water (Rodríguez Briseño, 2008).

In his study, Olsen (2005) did report that bureaucracy in tendering of water projects construction contracts was major hindrance to the implementation of water projects by municipal governments in the Netherlands. Similar evidence by Wilson (2009) who observed that party politics in Italy and Spain did derail the commencement of water projects at municipal level. This was characterized by political sabotage, patronage and the enactment of laws that created high levels of bureaucracy in the water projects contactors tendering process negatively influencing access to water (Wilson, 2009). Gómez-Reino and Herrero, (2011) did also argue that politics was the main determinant on how funds to implement public social services projects in regional governments in Spain were allocated. This view was also demonstrated in a study by Simon-Cosno, Lago-Penas and Vaquero, (2012) who observed that political goodwill factors did influence the budget allocations for water projects in decentralized units in Spain. Further, they contend that clientelism characterized by the enactment of water related financial laws did also have a negative influence the implementation of water projects in regional governments (Simón-Cosano, *et al.*, 2012).

In a study, McAteer and Bennett (2005) observed that devolution did mitigate bureaucracy in the tendering of public service projects improving the enactment of favourable water laws leading to the successful implementation of water projects by different local governments in Scotland. Similar evidence by Martins (2009) who demonstrated that political goodwill did lead to the enactment of favourable water laws and the allocation of sufficient funds for the implementation of water projects which had a positive influence in the implementation process of these projects consequently influencing access to water. The mitigation of bureaucratic tendencies through the enactment of favourable water laws by political leaders in Swiss cantons did lead to the successful implementation of water projects under these

devolved governance units (Barankay and Lockwood, 2007). Further, Barankay and Lockwood (2007) also demonstrate that the favorable water laws did also lead to the allocation of sufficient water projects' funds expediting the implementation of water projects under Swiss cantons and access to water.

In a study, Harsono (2003) observed that the implementation of water projects under devolved governments suffered from political interference perpetuated by local political establishments in Indonesia. This he contends derailed the successful realization of these projects as most of them stalled due to political patronage adversely influencing access to water in Indonesia (Harsono, 2003). Similar evidence by Zaman (2003) who observes that political meddling characterized by bureaucracy and patronage has been a major hindrance to the implementation of water projects in Jakarta, Indonesia. Unfavourable water laws by politicians in regional parliaments that result to high levels of bureaucracy derailed the implementation of water projects consequently influencing access to water in Indonesia (Lanti, 2006). Further, in her study Meyer (2007) did contend that clientelism did derail the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Cambodia. This she notes was characterized by bureaucracy in the water projects contactors tendering process and the amount allocated for the implementation of projects consequently influencing access (Meyer, 2007).

In their study, Shaw and Eichbaum (2011) report that less bureaucratic processes and patronage has a positive relationship with the successful implementation of water projects by regional governments in New Zealand. Further, they observe that the enactment of favorable water laws that led to the better allocation of sufficient water projects' funds in regional governments' budgets did contribute to the successful implementation of water projects at the regional level of governance positively influencing access to water (Shaw and Eichbaum, 2011). In a study, Allen and Hasnain (2010) found different evidence demonstrating that high levels of bureaucratic tendencies in the identification of water projects' contractors characterized by clientelism did have a negative influence on the implementation of water projects at the devolved provincial government levels in Papua New Guinea. This they observe characterized by derailed enactment of water laws resulting to insufficient allocation of water projects funds in the provincial governments' budgets

adversely affecting water projects (Allen and Hasnain, 2010). Similar evidence by Zahid, Keefer and Menzies (2011) who emphasized that the lack of political goodwill characterized by the slow enactment of favorable laws relating to capital development projects such as water projects derailed the implementation of these projects by devolved provincial governments in different villages in Papua New Guinea. Falling under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP), the existence of a bureaucratic process of tendering for these projects led to poor access to water in most villages under provincial governments' authority (Zahid, *et al.*, 2011). .

Studies in Africa postulate that the lack of political goodwill in devolved units in the form of bureaucracy and sabotage of favorable laws are major hindrances to the successful implementation of water projects. In a study, Goldin (2010) demonstrate that lack of trust and legal knowledge among political leaders did derail the enactment of favorable water laws that would lead to the allocation of sufficient projects funds at provincial governance levels. Further, he observed that this negatively influenced the implementation of water projects and consequently access to water in rural South Africa (Goldin, 2010). Further in a study, Naiga, Penker and Hogl (2015) demonstrates that bureaucratic tendencies in the tendering process of water projects' contracts did pose implementation challenges to water projects under local governments in rural Uganda. Further, they contend that lack of political goodwill also results to insufficient allocation of funds to water projects and political patronage results to stalled water projects consequently influencing access to water (Naiga, *et al.*, 2015).

In a study, Kikuvi (2016) observed that political patronage in the form of clientelism and poor enactment of water related legislation had led to the stalling of water projects implemented by a county government in Kenya. He also argues that internal wrangles among members of county assemblies had also derailed the enactment of important water laws that would witness the sufficient allocation of funds towards the implementation of water projects (Kikuvi, 2016).

2.7 Theoretical Framework

This study was pivoted under two theories; Allocative Efficiency Theory and Community Participation theory

The Allocative Efficiency Theory was developed by Oates, (1972).It identifies the conditions (governance at devolved levels) under which it is more efficient for local governments to provide the Pareto-efficient levels of output (in this case water projects) for their respective jurisdictions than for the central government to provide a uniform level of output (water projects) across all jurisdictions. Therefore, according to this theory devolution is premised to improve the efficiency of resource allocation. Further, the theory argues that devolved units have their reason in the provision of goods and services whose consumption is limited to their own jurisdictions. Oates, (2005) therefore argues that devolved provision of public service projects such as water projects, increases economic welfare above that which results from the uniform levels of such services that are likely under national provision. He further argues that, is because devolved units of governance are able to tailor outputs of such goods and services to the particular preferences and circumstances of their constituencies (Oates, 2005). It is further argued that because sub-national/county governments are closer to the people than the central government, they are considered to have better information about the preferences of local populations than the central government (Schoeman, 2006).

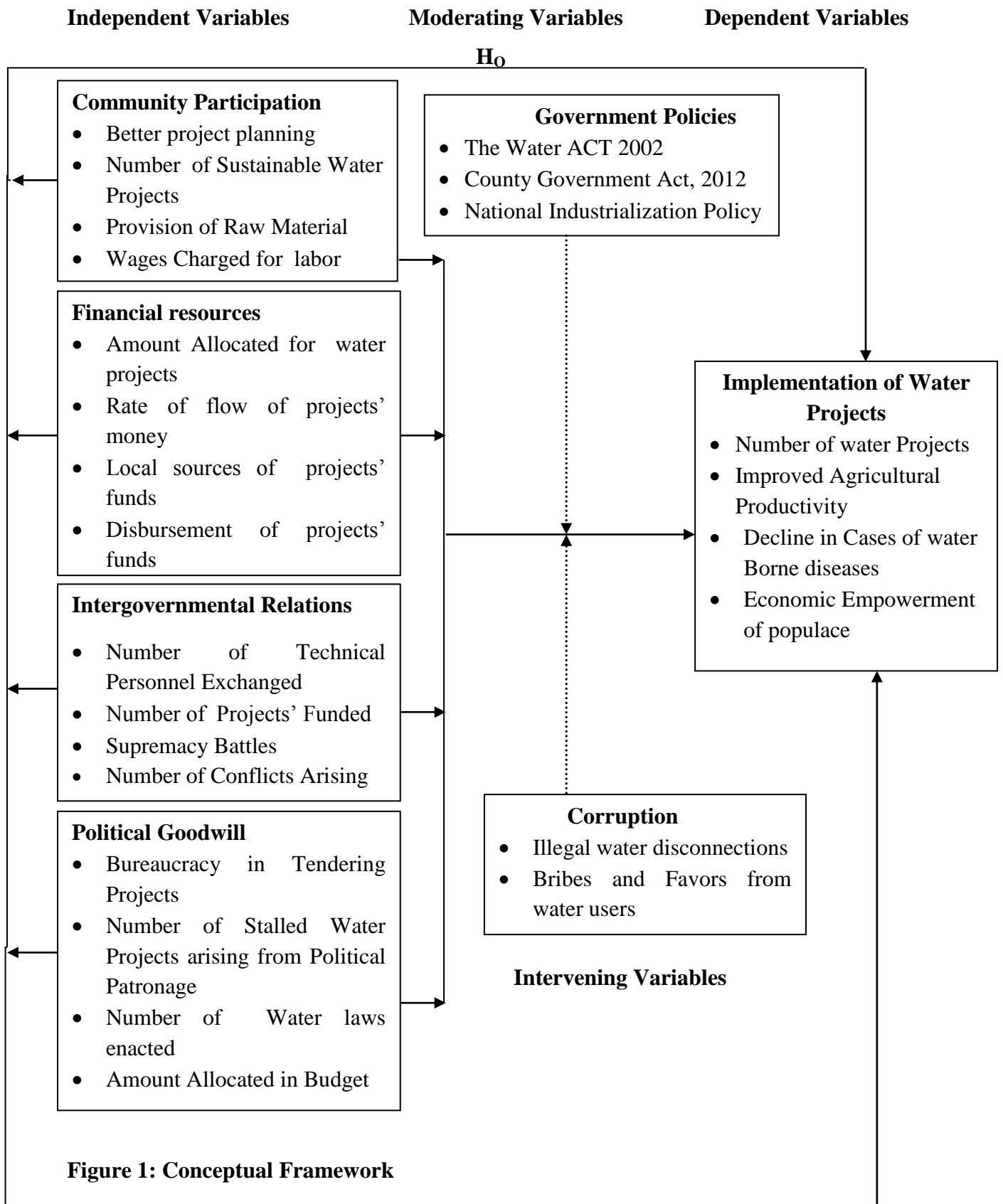
This theory is correlated to the study variables; community participation, financial resources, and intergovernmental relations. The theory addresses this by unpacking the influence of; community participation in the allocation of project's financial resources that is participatory budgeting. It also relates how the effective allocation of financial resources influences the implementation of water projects at the devolved level of governance. The theory also draws the relationship between sour intergovernmental relations in terms of the amount of funding disbursed for implementation of water projects at devolved governance levels.

Community participation theory, Windle and Chibulka (1981) proponents of the theory did argue that the participation of the community in development projects is better achieved through five stages; programme evaluation, service giving, governing, planning, enabling and authorizing. None of the stages should be left out (Windle and Chibulka,1981). Wilcox,

(1999) another proponent of community participation theory did also put forward five interconnected levels of community participation; information, consultation, deciding together, acting together and supporting individual community initiatives for the successful implementation of projects in a decentralized system. Therefore, community participation theory assumes that the higher the community participation in a decision, the less the likelihood of interferences of external organizations on that decision. In this theory focus is given on the participation of beneficiaries and not that of personnel from the implementing agencies (in this case the county government) in development projects. Community participation is attained through collaborative or joint involvement of project beneficiaries and the implementing agencies (Khwaja, 2006). This theory addresses study variable community participation and political goodwill.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework explains the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables. The former is presumed to be the cause of the changes and influences the latter (Kothari,2004). The following conceptual framework illustrates how the independent variables; community participation, financial resources, intergovernmental resources and political goodwill factors influence the implementation of water projects under devolved system of governance in Meru County. It presents independent variable community participation in terms of; provision of raw materials and better project planning and how these influence the implementation of water projects. Another independent variable under study is financial resources in terms of; amount allocated for water projects, disbursements of project's funds, rate of flow of projects' money and how these influence the implementation of water projects. The other variable under study is intergovernmental relations and its indicators are; number of conflicts arising, number of technical personnel exchanged and number of projects funded. The study also examines political goodwill in terms of; bureaucracy in tendering projects, number of water laws enacted, number of stalled water projects arising from political patronage, amount allocated in budget and how these influence the implementation of water projects.



2.9 Summary of Emperical Literature Review and Research Gap

Objective	Researched By	Study Objectives	Findings	Gap
Community Participation	Esonu and Kavanamur, (2011)	Improving delivery of public services through voluntary participation in financial and technical capacity of provincial governments in Papua New Guinea.	Community participation led to access of; raw materials at affordable prices and labor at cheap wage rates in implementation of public service projects in particular water.	They did not find out whether this improved agricultural productivity. This study addresses this research gap.
Financial Resources	Smoke and Morrison, (2008)	To assess the fiscal decentralization process and its impact on delivery of public services including water in Cambodia. To examine the role of local tax reforms on delivery of public services including water in Cambodia.	Late disbursement of water projects' funds influences the implementation of water infrastructure at provincial government levels.	They did not find out whether this decline in water borne diseases. This study addresses this research gap.
Intergovernmental Relations	Rosales, (2012)	To assess role of intergovernmental relations on fiscal decentralization and	Sour relations between central government and regional	They did not find out whether this influenced the exchange of

		delivery of public services in Chile.	governments in Chile led to disbursements of insufficient funds that derailed the implementation water projects at regional levels.	technical personnel. This study addresses this research gap.
Political Goodwill	Goldin, (2010)	To assess the legal ability of politicians at lower levels of governance to enact water policy that improves implementation of water projects and access to it. Examine role of political trust and agency relations that influence policy and access to water in lower levels of governance.	Lack of trust and legal knowledge among political leaders did derail the enactment of favorable water laws adversely influencing implementation of water projects.	They did not find out whether this led to bureaucracy in the tendering of water projects and whether political patronage derailed implementation of water projects.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter described the research design used in the study, the target population, sample size and sampling procedure and data collection instruments. The pilot study was also described, validity and reliability of research instruments discussed. It also contains data analysis techniques, the operationalization table of variables plus ethical considerations observed.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is the format that guides the implementation of a research method, and the subsequent analysis of acquired data (Sapsford,2007). It provides a framework for the generation of evidence that is suitable both to a certain set of criteria and to the research question in which the investigator is interested. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to investigate the factors that influence the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in the study locale. A descriptive research design Babbie (2010) is adequate when data collected describes persons, organizations, settings or phenomena. Descriptive survey research design was ideal for this study because it facilitated the gathering of both qualitative and quantitative data on how study variables such as; Community Participation, Financial Resources, Intergovernmental Relations and Political Good will factors influence the implementation of water projects in the study locale. Further, through this design the study was to establish the link between study variables and study problem.

3.3 Target Population

According to the County government of Meru, the County has 126 employees (Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, 2014) in the ministry of water and natural resources. This study concentrated on these employees because they are expected to be knowledgeable on the research topic from their experiences in working in the water sector in

the study locale. The study sought information regarding the research topic from 108 ward administrators and assistant ward administrators and 69 members of the Meru County assembly. This is because these respondents have wealth of information relating to the research problem. Summarized in Table: 3.1

Table 3.1 Target Population

Respondents	Target Population
Min. of Water and Natural resources Employees	126
Ward Administrators and Assistants	108
Members of County Assembly	69
Total	303

Source: County Government of Meru and County Assembly of Meru (Staff Returns, 2016)

3.4 Sample size and sampling Procedure

Sampling refers to the process through which a number of individuals or persons are selected to represent a larger category in a study. Stratified random sampling and simple random sampling were used (Lohr, 2010).

3.4.1 Sample Size

Sample size for the study was 170 derived from the study's target population of 303. The sample design of this study was based on the formula:

$$N_s = \frac{(Np)(p)(1-p)}{(Np-1)(B/C)^2 + (p)(1-p)}$$

$n = (Z^2 \cdot PQ / \alpha^2)$ by Dillman, (2007)

3.4.2 Sampling Procedure

The target population for this study was grouped into three different categories; stratified random sampling was therefore used to ensure proper representation of the different respondents. This also enhanced representation of variables related to different respondents.

Simple random sampling was then used to select the final subjects equally from different strata.

Sample size was determined as follows:

At 95% confidence level or probability of 0.05, sample size n can be calculated as:

$$\text{Desired sample } n = (Z^2 \cdot PQ / \alpha^2)$$

Where Z= Critical value of Z at 0.05 which is equal to 1.96

P=Accessible proportion of the target population= 50%

Q= In accessible proportion of the target population=50%

The acceptance error estimate = α .

Using the above formula, the maximum sample size (n_o) required from a large population of 10,000 or more units would be 384 units. The sample size can be adjusted with respect to target population as:

The adjusted sample size $n_1 = n_o / (1 + n_o / N)$. Where N is the size of the target population in the area of study

The adjusted sample size $n_1 = 1 + 384 / (1 + 384 / 303) =$

$$\frac{1 + 384}{303} = 2.27$$

$$\frac{1 + 384}{2.27} = 170$$

$$n_1 = 170$$

The sample size is shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Sampling Frame

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size
Min. of Water and Natural Resources Employees	126	75
Ward Administrators and Assistants	108	57
Members of County Assembly	69	38
Total	303	170

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

Questionnaires and an interview schedule were used to collect the data required for this study. According to Saris, (2007) a questionnaire is a self-report data collection research tool

that each research participant fills out as part of a research study. The researcher used this method because questionnaires are free from the bias of the interviewee and respondents had adequate time to give well thought out answers. Questionnaires also provide relatively straight forward information to analyze (Saris, 2007). Primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The researcher used structured questionnaires because they were easy to administer as each item is accompanied by choice answers and they were economical in terms of time and money. The questionnaire consists of both closed and open ended questions. Closed questions consist of a fixed set of questions to be answered by Water sector employees and Ward Administrators and their Assistants in a specified sequence and with a pre-designated response options. Open ended questions were not restrictive to the respondents. Open ended questions provided respondents with opportunities to reveal information in a naturalistic way. The questionnaire was divided in 5 sections. Section one requested the respondent to fill in his or her background information, whereas the remaining 4 sections consisted of variables which the researcher intends to research on. The sections were; Community Participation, Financial Resources, Intergovernmental Relations and Political Goodwill and the implementation of water projects. The researcher administered the questionnaires in person through the use of the drop and pick later method to the sampled respondents. A register of the questionnaires was maintained to facilitate tracking of the research collection instrument.

Qualitative data for this study was collected through the use of an unstructured interview schedule. This gave the respondents freedom to fully express themselves without limitations and enhanced the gathering of more information which otherwise would be difficult to get (Savin-Baden and Major, 2010). Personal interviews conducted with the help of the interview schedule granted the researcher an opportunity for close examination to gather more information and the respondent an opportunity to ask the researcher any questions regarding the research topic (Savin-Baden and Major, 2010). 21 interview guides were prepared for the members of county assembly of Meru.

3.5.1 Pilot Study

A pilot study was conducted to reduce obscurity of questionnaire and interview guide items and enhance data integrity. It also helped in examining of the feasibility of methods and

procedures that were used in the main study. This process involved the selection of participants through simple random sampling. Recommendation by Neuman (2011) of 15% of the principal sample size was used for selecting this study's pilot study participants. In particular, research instruments were administered to 26 respondents that participated in the pilot study. Data analysis was then undertaken, results of these deliberated on with the supervisor for modification on existing weaknesses in the instruments.

3.5.2 Validity of Research Instruments

Validity is defined as a means of assessing that the research instruments used in a study collect the data they attempt to gather (Somekh and Cathy,2005). This study adopted content validity that is a measure of the degree to which data collected using the study's instruments represents a specific domain or content of the concepts in this study. To ensure validity, the researcher requested expert opinion to comment on the representativeness and appropriateness of questions and give suggestions of corrections to be made to the structure of the research tools. The validity of the research instruments was established by holding discussion and seeking counsel with my supervisor and modification of the instrument was implemented after supervisor's approval.

3.5.3 Instrument Reliability

A reliable instrument is one that gives consistent results. It is these consistent results that gave the researcher confidence that the results actually represent what was measured (Graziano and Raulin, 2013). Reliability was established by using more than one instrument to the group of individuals during the same time. Further, to check reliability of the research instruments and address any deficiencies in the research instruments, a pilot study was conducted using 15% of the main sample size as recommended by (Neuman,2011). Therefore, this study's pilot was conducted on 26 respondents from the target population. Internal consistency techniques using Cronbach's Alpha was applied. The alpha value ranges between 0 and 1 with reliability increasing with the increase in value. Coefficient of 0.6-0.7 is a commonly accepted rule of thumb that indicates acceptable reliability and 0.8 or higher indicated good reliability (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2008). The research instruments used in this study have a reliability coefficient of 0.82 which indicates they are reliable.

3.6 Data Collection Procedures

Primary data was collected through selected research instruments using both the drop and pick later method and the interactive method for interview schedule. Structured questionnaires were used due to their inherent advantageous features that allow items to have choice answers and are economical in terms of money and time (Archarya, 2010). A questionnaire register was developed to both track those administered and achieve a good response rate.

3.7 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis is the procedure that involves creating order, structure and meaning to the mass of information collected by a researcher (Babbie, 2010). To ensure that data is entered correctly, scores are high or low and how many in each category, the researcher constructed frequency and percent distribution using SPSS version 21.0. SPSS was used because it helps to spot data entry errors or unusual data points and has full set of statistical tests. The researcher was analyzed the data to be collected to get statistical measures such as correlations among different variables, mean and standard deviations for easy interpretation of the study. The analysis helped the researcher to make valid inference on the topic of study.

The data from interview guide and open ended questions were analyzed through content analysis by presenting data in themes as per the research objectives. Frequencies and percentages were used to summarize information.

To determine the significance of each of the study's four variables with respect to implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance, a multiple regression model was applied. This is a flexible method of data analysis that is suitable in situations when quantitative variables (the dependent) are to be examined in correlation to any other factors. Further, the model shows relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. Relationships may be non-linear, independent variables may be quantitative or qualitative and one can examine the effects of a single variable or multiple variables with or without the effects of other variables taken into account, (Stevens, 2009).

The regression model is presented as:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y = Implementation of Water Projects Under Devolution

β_0 = Constant Term

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ and β_4 = Beta coefficients

X1= Community Participation Factors

X2= Financial Resources Factors

X3= Intergovernmental Relations Factors

X4= Political Goodwill Factors

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Consent was sought from the participants to indicate the willingness to participate; the researcher also ensured anonymity when it comes to answering the study questionnaire. The researcher ensured that the information was used for research purposes only (Macfarlane, 2009). To conduct this study, the researcher is also seeking a permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

3.9 Operational definition of Variables

Denscombe, (2007) define the operational definition of variable as the Actual method, tool, or technique which indicates how the concept was measured.

The variables were defined as shown on Table 3.3

Table 3.3 Operationalizational Table of Variables

Objectives	Variable	Indicators	Measurement of Indicators	Measurement Scale	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis
To establish the influence of community participation factors on the implementation of water projects in Meru County.	<u>Independent Variable</u> Community Participation	Better Project Planning.	Water projects implemented due to better planning that embraces community participation by the county government.	Interval Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
		Number of sustainable water projects	Number of employees and ward administrators reporting that community participation in implementation of water projects makes projects sustainable.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive Statistics
		Provision of Raw Materials	Number of employees and ward administrators reporting that community participation in implementation of water projects helps access raw materials for these projects.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive Statistics
		Wages Charged for labour	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that community participation in implementation of water projects helps access affordable labor for these projects.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
To assess the influence of financial resources factors in the implementation of water projects in Meru County.	<u>Independent Variable</u> Financial Resources	Amount Allocated for water projects	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that amount of money allocated for the implementation of water projects is enough.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
		Rate of flow of projects' money	Water sectors employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that the rate of flow of water projects' money is reliable.	Interval Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
		Local sources of projects' funds	County assembly members reporting that there exists local sources of funds to implement water projects.	Interval Scale	Interview Guide	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
		Disbursement of projects' funds	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that disbursement of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects is done in good time.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics

To establish the influence of intergovernmental relations factors on the implementation of water projects in Meru County	<u>Independent Variable</u> Intergovernmental Relations	Number of technical personnel exchanged	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that there exists exchange of technical experts in the implementation of water projects.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
		Number of projects' funded	Number of employees and ward administrators reporting the number of implemented of water projects through funding by national government.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive Statistics
		Number of conflicts arising	County assembly members reporting that there exist conflicts between the national and county government that influence implementation of water projects.	Interval Scale	Interview Guide	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
To determine the influence of political goodwill factors on the implementation of water projects in Meru County.	<u>Independent Variable</u> Political Goodwill Factors	Bureaucracy in tendering projects.	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that bureaucracy of tendering influences the implementation of water projects.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
		Number of stalled water projects arising from political patronage.	Number of employees and ward administrators reporting water projects that have stalled as a result of political patronage.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive Statistics
		Number of water laws enacted. Amount allocated in budget	County assembly members reporting that there exist water laws enacted that influence the implementation of water projects in the county.	Interval Scale	Interview Guide	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
Implementation of Water Projects	<u>Dependent Variable</u>	Economic Empowerment of Populace	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that the implementation of water projects leads to the economic empowerment of the populace.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
		Number of water projects	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting on the implementation of sustainable water projects by county government.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics

		Improved agricultural Productivity	Number of employees, ward administrators and county assembly members reporting that the implementation of water projects improves agricultural productivity.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire/ Interview Guide	Descriptive Statistics
		Decline in water borne diseases cases	Number of employees and ward administrators reporting that sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of water project decreases reported cases of water borne diseases.	Nominal Scale	Questionnaire	Descriptive Statistics

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

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

4.1.1 Response Rate

Table 4.1: Response Rate

	Questionnaires Administered	Questionnaires filled & Returned	Percentage
Respondents	170	123	72.4

The study targeted a sample size of 170 respondents from which 123 filled in and returned the questionnaires making a response rate of 72.4%. This response rate was satisfactory to make conclusions for the study as it acted as a representative. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and over is excellent. Based on the assertion, the response rate was excellent.

Table 4.2: Reliability Analysis

Variable	Cronbach Alpha coefficient score	No. Of Items	Comments
Community participation	0.879	9	Reliable
Financial resources	0.840	8	Reliable
Intergovernmental relations	0.915	9	Reliable
political patronage	0.852	8	Reliable

A pilot study was carried out to determine reliability of the questionnaires. The pilot study involved the sample respondents. Reliability analysis was subsequently done using Cronbach's Alpha, Graziano and Raulin (2013) which measured the internal consistency by

establishing if certain item within a scale measures the same construct. The Alpha value threshold at 0.7, Gliem and Gliem (2003) thus forming the study's benchmark. Cronbach alpha was established for every objective which formed a scale. The table shows that intergovernmental relations had the highest reliability ($\alpha= 0.915$), followed by Community participation ($\alpha=0.879$), political patronage ($\alpha=0.852$) and finally Financial resources ($\alpha=0.840$) this illustrates that all the variables were reliable as their reliability values exceeded the prescribed threshold of 0.7.

4.2 Demographic Information

This sub-section investigates on respondent's background information. Mainly it includes age category, gender distribution, education level, period of service in the count government.

Respondents were requested to indicate their age category. This was sought in the understanding that different age sets hold various opinions relating to different issues. Results are analyzed in table 4.3

Table 4.3: Age distribution

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-29 years	21	17.0
30-39 years	50	40.7
40-49 years	33	26.8
50 years and above	19	15.4
Total	123	100.0

The findings show that 40.5% of the respondents were aged between 40 to 49 years, 23.8% of the respondents were aged between 30 to 39 years, 22.6 % of the respondents were aged 50 years and above while 13.1% of the respondents indicated that they were aged 20 to 29 years. This shows that various age groups were equitably engaged in this research.

The study sought to establish the gender distribution among the respondents. This was sought in view of ensuring fair engagement on male and female respondents.

Results are presented in Table 4.4

Table 4.4: Gender distribution

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	79	64.0
female	44	36.0
Total	123	100.0

Results obtained show that majority of the respondents as shown by 64.0 % were males whereas 36.1% were females. This implies that males dominate devolved units of governance both in administrative and political functions. They are also the majority handling devolved water governance despite the belief that issues influencing access to water affect the lives of women more than it does men.

Individual level of education is highly associated with problem solving ability and approach to challenges. In this regards, the study requested the respondent to indicate the highest level of education attained. This was made to determine the respondent's level of ability in answering to research questions. Results are presented in Table 4.5

Table 4.5: Level of education

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Certificate	18	14.6
Diploma	51	41.5
Bachelors Degree	39	31.7
Masters and Above	15	12.2
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, the study noted that most of the respondents as shown by 41.5% held collage diploma certificates, 31.7% of the respondents held bachelors degree, 14.6 % of the respondents held Certificate and 12.2% held masters and above. This implies that majority of the respondents were literate and were therefore in a position to give credible information relating to this study.

Study respondents were requested to indicate their period of service as an employee/ ward administrator for the Meru County government. Results are presented in Table 4.6

Table 4.6: Period of service in the industry

Period of service	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1 years	9	7.3
2 years	24	19.5
3 years	69	56.3
4 years	21	17.0
Total	123	100

Results obtained show that, most of the respondents as shown by 56.3% had served Meru County government for a period 3 years, 19.5% of the respondents had served Meru County government for a period of 2 years, 17.0 % of the respondents indicated 4 years while 7.3% of the respondents indicated one year. This is important because it shows that majority of the study's respondents at 56.3 % were in a position to give credible information relating to this study based on their vast experience working for the county in the devolved water governance sector.

Number of water projects sponsored by County Government of Meru

The study sought to establish the number of water projects sponsored by County Government of Meru. From the research findings, majority of the respondents indicate that the county government had initiated more than 150 water projects all within different wards

4.3 Community participation and implementation of water projects

This sub section investigates the role of community in the implementation of water projects. It presents study findings on the influence of either involving or failure to involve the community in the implementation of water projects at devolved governance levels.

The research sought to establish whether the involvement or failure to involve the community in the implementation of water projects lead to better planning of projects by the county government. Results are presented in Table 4.7

Table 4.7: Community involvement in the implementation of county sponsored water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	56.0
No	54	44.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings majority of the study respondents as shown by 56.0% were of the opinion that involvement of community in the implementation of water projects lead to better planning of the project whereas 44.0% were of the contrary opinion. This is important because it shows that majority of the study’s respondents attached great importance in the involvement of community in the implementation of county sponsored water projects. This also implies that involvement of community in the implementation of county sponsored water projects lead to better planning of these projects. .

Further the respondents reported that Participation ensures that felt needs are served, involving beneficiaries helps to shape the project to their specific needs in ways that outside planners cannot and that participation increased the sense of immediate responsibility and ownership by beneficiaries puts pressure on a project to be truly worthwhile

4.3.2 Community participation in the implementation of county sponsored water projects

The research sought to determine whether community participation in the implementation of water projects under county governments makes the projects more sustainable. Results are presented in Table 4.8

Table 4.8: Community participation in the implementation of county sponsored water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	62.0
No	47	38.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 62.0% were of the opinion that community participation in the implementation of water projects under county governments promoted the sustainability of water projects whereas 38.0% were of the contrary opinion. This is important because it shows that majority of the study’s respondents attached great importance in the involvement of community in the implementation of county sponsored water projects in achieving projects’ sustainability. This also implies that community participation in the implementation of water projects under county governments promoted the sustainability of water projects in Meru County.

Relationship between community participation and access of raw materials of water projects

The research sought to establish whether embracing of community participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitates the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects. Results are presented in Table 4.9

Table 4.9: Relationship between community participation and access of raw materials of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	74	60.16
No	49	39.84
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings majority of the respondent as shown by 60.16% agreed that embracing of community participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitates the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects whereas 39.84% were of the contrary opinion. This is important because it shows that majority of the study’s respondents attached great importance in the involvement of community in the implementation of county sponsored water projects in accessing of raw materials for project implementation. This also implies that embracing of community participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitates the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects.

Further respondents reported that stakeholder’s involvement in implementation of water projects sponsored by county government helps to provide invaluable support during the

implementation of the activities; stakeholder’s role especially local beneficiaries and interaction determine the effectiveness of a development intervention.

The study also revealed that community participation in implementation of water projects sponsored by county government helps to tap free labour thus reducing operational cost, community participation acts as a catalyst for further development; encourages a sense of responsibility; guarantees that a felt need is involved; ensures things are done the right way; uses valuable indigenous knowledge and that it helps to improve accountability and transparency.

Respondents also reported that community participation process builds the capacity of the community by encouraging the acquisition of relevant skills in the identification of local resources, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the sustainability of water projects implemented by the county government of Meru and that Community participation helped to builds on local strengths, creativity and resource, and actively seeks to decrease dependency on, and vulnerability to, economic interests outside the community as a result sustainability is ensured

4.3.4 Influence of community participation on project labour and wages cost

The study sought to establish whether community participation in the implementation of water projects under the county government influence the wages charged for labor provided in the implementation of these projects. Results are presented in Table 4.10

Table 4.10: Influence of community participation on project labour and wages cost

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	84	68.3
No	39	31.7
Total	123	100.0

Results obtained shown that majority of the respondents as shown by 68.3% agreed that community participation in the implementation of water projects under the county government influence the wages charged for labor provided in the implementation of these projects whereas 31.7% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that community participation in the implementation of water projects under the county government does influence the wages charged for labor provided in the implementation of these projects. The

findings are in line with the research by Esonu and Kavanamur (2011) who contend that stakeholder participation did positively influence the successful implementation of water projects implemented at provincial governments in Papua New Guinea.

Respondents further reported that community involvement in the implementation of water projects helped to tap free labour that reduced the cost of implementation.

4.3.5 Effect of sustainable water projects on agricultural productivity

The research sought to establish whether implementation of sustainable water projects under devolution would improve the agricultural productivity in Meru County. Results are presented in Table 4.11

Table 4.11: Effect of sustainable water projects on agricultural productivity

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	64.0
No	41	36.0
Total	114	100.0

Results obtained show that majority of the respondents as shown by 64% agreed that the implementation of sustainable water projects under devolution would improve the agricultural productivity in Meru County while 36% indicated otherwise. This implies that majority of study respondents attached great importance on improved the agricultural productivity emanating from implementation of sustainable water projects under devolution would in Meru County. The study noted that water projects under devolution provided irrigation that increases the productivity of smallholder agricultural and agribusiness producers.

4.3.6 Effect of community involvement on project implementation

The study sought to determine the extent to which respondents agreed with the following Statements relating to effect of community involvement on project implementation. Results are presented in Table 4.12

Table 4.12: Effect of community involvement on project implementation

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Wages charged for labor provided by the community in the implementation of water projects under devolution do influence the implementation of these projects.	0%	0%	4.7%	54.7%	40.6%	4.36	.576
The failure to access raw materials by devolved governments from the beneficiary community does not influence the implementation of water projects.	46.9%	39.1%	14.1%	0%	0%	1.67	0.71
The involvement of the community in water projects implementation by the county government makes these projects sustainable.	0%	0%	0%	64.1%	35.9%	4.36	0.48
The failure by the county government to embrace community participation in the implementation of water projects does not influence the better planning process for the implementation of these projects.	54.7%	34.4%	10.9%	0%	0%	1.56	0.69

From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; wages charged for labor provided by the community in the implementation of water projects under devolution do

influence the implementation of these projects; the involvement of the community in water projects implementation by the county government makes these projects sustainable as shown by a mean of 4.36 in each case. The findings concur with the research by Mikkelsen (1995:47) argued that participation is the sensitization of people to increase their receptivity and ability to respond to development projects.

Further the, respondents disagreed that to the statements that the failure by the county government to embrace community participation in the implementation of water projects does not influence the better planning process for the implementation of these projects as shown by a mean of 1.56 and that the failure to access raw materials by devolved governments from the beneficiary community does not influence the implementation of water projects as shown by a mean of 1.82. The findings are in supported of the literature by sonu and Kavanamur, 2011) stakeholder participation had positively influence the successful implementation of water projects implemented because the host communities had provided; raw materials at affordable prices, labor at cheap wage rates and also owned the projects thereby enhancing projects’ sustainability.

4.4 Financial resources factors and implementation of water projects

4.4.1 Financial adequacy and implementation of water projects

The research sought to determine whether the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County is sufficient. Results are presented in Table 4.13

Table 4.13: Financial adequacy in implementation of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	49	40.0
No	74	60.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 60% disagreed indicating that the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County is insufficient whereas only 40% agreed indicating that the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County is sufficient. This implies that majority of study respondents attached great importance on financial resources allocated for the

implementation of county government’s water projects. This also implies that the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County is not sufficient. Respondents further reported that proper allocation of funds allowed smooth execution of project activities thus ensuring that project objectives are realized on time.

Respondents further reported that funded projects are faced with challenges during implementation and key among them is delayed receipt of funds. This leads to uncertainties in the implementation activities and sometimes abandonment of project activities.

4.4.2 Resource allocation on water project and number of water borne diseases in the County

The research sought to determine whether sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects facilitate a decrease in the number of reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County. Results are presented in Table 4.14

Table 4.14: Resource allocation on water project and number of water borne diseases in the County

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	86	70
No	37	30
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 70% agreed that sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects facilitate a decrease in the number of reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County whereas only 30% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that majority of study respondents attached great importance on the significant sustainable water projects play in the decrease of water borne diseases. This also implies that sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects does increase access to clean water that facilitates a decrease in the number of reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County.

Respondents further reported that due to inconsistent in releasing funds, most of the water projects are derailed. . This translates to delayed benefits to intended citizens. Funds must

also be clearly designated and committed to the project so as to ensure successful implementation of activities without the possibility of stalling and subsequent abandonment.

4.4.3 Timely disbursement of funds for implementation of water projects

The research sought to determine whether funds meant for the implementation of water projects disbursed in good time and it influenced the implementation process of these projects. Results are presented in Table 4.15

Table 4.15: Timely disbursement of funds for implementation of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	61.8
No	47	38.2
Total	123	100.0

Results obtained show that majority of the study’s respondents as shown by 61.8% agreed that timely disbursement of funds for implementation of water projects influenced the implementation process of these projects in Meru County whereas 38.2% were of the contrary opinion. It implies that attached majority of study respondents attached greater importance to the influence of timely disbursement of funds on implementation of county funded water projects. This also implies that timely disbursement of funds for implementation of water projects influenced the implementation process of these projects in Meru County. The study noted that timely disbursement of funds ensures consistency in project operations; it also helped to keep the implementation spirit high thus increasing the success outcome.

4.4.4 Statements relating to disbursement of funds for project implementation

The study sought to determine the extent to which respondents agreed with the following Statements relating to disbursement of funds for project implementation. Results are presented in Table 4.16

Table 4.16: Statements relating to disbursement of funds for project implementation

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
The rate of flow of water projects' funds under devolution does not influence the implementation of these projects.	45.3 %	43.8 %	10.9 %	0%	0%	1.66	0.67
Disbursement procedural delays of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects do influence the implementation of water projects.	0%	0%	7.8%	75.0 %	17.2 %	3.94	0.94
The sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of water projects does not facilitate decreased cases of water borne diseases.	54.7 %	40.6 %	4.7%	0%	0%	1.50	0.59
Amount of money allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects.	6.3%	0%	0%	75.0 %	18.8 %	4.00	0.87

From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; Amount of money allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects as shown by a mean of 4.00, and disbursement procedural delays of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects do influence the implementation of water projects as shown by a mean of 3.94. The findings are in supported of the literature by

findings conforms with the findings by Ayodele (2011) that most community development projects have failed to become self-reliant due to lack of funds and poor budgeting.

Further the, respondents disagreed that to the statements that; the sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of water projects does not facilitate decreased cases of water borne diseases as shown by a mean of 1.50 and that the rate of flow of water projects' funds under devolution does not influence the implementation of these projects as shown by a mean of 1.66. The findings concurs with the findings by Authority (2009), Disbursement of funds is the most important aspect of project implementation

4.5 Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation of Water Projects The research sought to establish whether the management team received any technical experts in the implementation of water projects. Results are presented in Table 4.17

Table 4.17: Technical expert's implementation of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	56.0
No	54	44.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 56.0% agreed that the management team received technical experts in the implementation of water projects whereas 44.0% indicated otherwise. This implies that study respondents did appreciate the significant role played by technical experts in the implementation of water projects at devolved governance levels. This also implies that the management team received any technical experts in the implementation of water projects.

The research sought to establish whether the national government directly fund water projects in Meru County. Results are presented in Table 4.18

Table 4.18: National government directly funded water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	56.0
No	54	44.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 56.0% agreed that the national government directly fund water projects in Meru County, whereas only 44.0% indicated otherwise. This implies that the national government directly funds water projects in Meru County the study also noted that poor coordination between national and county government like timely disbursement of funds hampered the progress of county initiated projects, lack of clear policies and dispute resolution mechanisms between the national and county government crippled down the implementation of projects in Meru County. The findings of this study are in line with those by Budds and Hinojosa (2012) who observed that conflicts over proceeds from natural mineral resources worsened relations between central and regional governments had an adverse influence on the implementation of water projects. The study sought to reveals whether supremacy battles between the national government and county government influence the implementation of water projects. Results are presented in Table 4.19

Table 4.19: Effect of supremacy battles on implementation of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	86	70
No	37	30
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 70.0% agreed that supremacy battles between the national government and county government influence the implementation of water projects whereas only 30.0% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that majority of study respondents are cognizant of the existence of supremacy battles between the two levels of government and that this does influence the implementation of water projects at the devolved governance level. This implies that supremacy battles between the national government and county government influence the implementation of water projects. The research also noted that political problems are the major causes of the difficulties experienced by projects in Meru. Existence of a weak political/government commitment subject the process of project implementation to political pressure thus negatively affecting the whole exercise projects.

4.6 Political goodwill factors and implementation of water project The research sought to determine whether there are water projects in Meru County that have stalled as result of political patronage, Results are presented in Table 4.20

Table 4.20: Effect of bureaucracy in tendering process on implementation on water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	77	63.0
No	46	37.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 63.0% agreed that there existed high levels of bureaucracy in the tendering of water projects influencing the implementation of these projects whereas 37.0% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that majority of study respondents were cognizant of both the existence of high levels of bureaucracy in tendering water projects and this does influence implementation of county funded water projects.. Results obtained also indicate that bureaucracy in tendering of water projects construction contracts is a major hindrance to the implementation of water projects adversely influencing access to water in Meru County.

The research investigated whether there are water projects in Meru County that have stalled as result of political patronage. Results are presented in Table 4.21

Table 4.21: Effect of political patronage on implementation of water projects

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	56.0
No	54	44.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondent as shown by 56.0% agreed that there are water projects in Meru County that have stalled as result of political patronage whereas 44.0% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that majority of study respondents were cognizant of the influence of political patronage on the implementation of water projects

under devolved governance. This also implies that some water projects in Meru County that has stalled as result of political patronage. Respondent also reported that technical expert's political problems are the major causes of the difficulties experienced by projects. The findings are in support of the research by Harsono (2003) observed that the implementation of water projects under devolved governments in the country was interfered with by local political establishments which derailed the successful realization of these projects adversely influencing access to water. The research sought to determine whether implementation of sustainable water projects through the reduction of bureaucracy in tendering of these projects would lead to economic empowerment of the Meru populace, Results are presented in Table 4.22

Table 4.22: Effect of water projects implementation on economic empowerment

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	56.0
No	54	44.0
Total	123	100.0

From the research findings, majority of the respondents as shown by 56.0% agreed that implementation of sustainable water projects through the reduction of bureaucracy in tendering of these projects would lead to economic empowerment of the Meru populace whereas 44.0% were of the contrary opinion. This implies that majority of study respondents placed greater attachment on the influence of water on economic activities and how the expedited implementation of water projects influence this. This also implies that implementation of sustainable water projects through the reduction of bureaucracy in tendering of these projects would lead to economic empowerment of the Meru populace. Respondents also reported that there exists a positive relationship between irrigation development and increased regional economic activity.

The study sought to investigate the extent to which respondents agreed with the following statements relating to effect of water projects implementation on economic empowerment. Results are presented in Table 4.23

Table 4.23: Effect of water projects implementation on economic empowerment

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Bureaucracy in tendering of water projects under devolution does not influence the implementation of these projects.	35.9%	50.0%	6.3%	1.6%	6.3%	1.92	1.03
Funds allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects.	0%	0%	0%	79.7%	20.3%	4.20	0.41
The sustainable implementation of water projects by the county government leads to economic empowerment of the Meru Populace.	0%	0%	0%	59.4%	40.6%	4.41	0.50
Political patronage does not influence the implementation of water projects under devolution.	34.4%	34.4%	6.3%	18.8%	6.3%	2.28	1.29

From the research findings, majority of the respondents agreed that; the sustainable implementation of water projects by the county government leads to economic empowerment of the Meru Populace as shown by a mean of 4.41 and that funds allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects as shown by a mean of 4.20. The findings are in support of the research by Eichbaum (2011)

report that less bureaucratic processes and patronage has a positive relationship with the successful implementation of water projects by regional governments in the country

Further the, respondents disagreed that to the statements that bureaucracy in tendering of water projects under devolution does not influence the implementation of county initiated water projects as shown by a mean of 1.92 and that political patronage does not influence the implementation of water projects under devolution as shown by a mean of 2.28. The findings are in support of the research by Allen and Hasnain, (2010) who observed that high levels of bureaucratic tendencies in the identification of water project contractors characterized by clientelism did have a negative influence on the implementation of water projects at the devolved provincial government levels

4.4 Regression analysis

A multiple regression model was applied to investigate factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Kenya. The study adopted the following regression equation to establish the relationship between variables $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1x_1 + \beta_2x_2 + \beta_3x_3 + \beta_4x_4 + e$; Where β_0 =the constant of regression, β_1 , β_2 , β_3 , and β_4 = are the regression coefficients/weights of the following respective independent variables Y = implementation of water projects under devolution, x_1 = community participation factors x_2 = financial resources factors, x_3 = intergovernmental relations factors and x_4 = political goodwill factors. All the four independent variables were measured using the responses on each of the variables obtained from the respondents. The results are discussed below.

4.4.1 Test Hypothesis

H₀ There is no relationship between the combined influence the implementation of water projects.

Table 4.24: Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.819 ^a	.671	.653	.37290

Community participation, Financial
a. Predicators: (constant) resources, Intergovernmental Relations and Political goodwill
b. Dependent: Variable. Implementation of Water Projects

Source: Research data, 2016

The study used coefficient of determination to evaluate the model fit. The adjusted R^2 , also called the coefficient of multiple determinations, is the percent of the variance in the dependent explained uniquely or jointly by the independent variables. The model had an average adjusted coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.653 and which implied that 65.3% of the variations in implementation of water projects under devolution are explained by the independent variables understudy (community participation factors, financial resources factors, intergovernmental relations factors and that political goodwill factors).

The study further tested the hypothesis and significance of the model by use of ANOVA technique.

The findings are presented in Table 4.25 below.

Table 4.25: Summary of One-Way ANOVA results

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	20.72	4	5.18	37.252	.000 ^b
Residual	8.201	59	.139		
Total	28.921	63			

a. Dependent Variable: Implementation of Water Projects

Source: Research data, 2016

The study used ANOVA to establish the significance of the regression model from which an f-significance value of p less than 0.05 was established ($p= 0.00 <0.05$). This means that the regression model has a confidence level of above 95% hence high reliability of the results. Using the F-test statistic, the calculated F value was 37.252 was greater than F critical f value = 2.49. The probability value of 0.001 was obtained which also indicates that the regression model was significant in predicting the relationship between community participation factors, financial resources factors, intergovernmental relations factors and that political goodwill factors on implementation of water projects under devolution. Therefore the null hypothesis; All the above factors combined do not influence the implementation of water projects is rejected. According to Hausman (2003) this model can be used for estimating purposes.

In addition, the study used the coefficient table to determine the study model. The findings are presented in the Table 4.26.

Table 4.26: Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-.176	.327		-.538	.592
Community Participation Factors (X_1)	.517	.096	.397	5.375	.016
Financial Resources Factors 1 (X_2)	.197	.043	.670	4.581	.001
Intergovernmental Relations Factors (X_3)	.269	.048	.394	5.660	.014
Political Goodwill Factors (X_4)	.230	.042	.413	5.448	.010

As per the SPSS generated output as presented in table above, the equation ($Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon$) becomes: $Y = -0.176 + 0.517X_1 + 0.197X_2 + 0.269X_3 + 0.230X_4$

From the regression model obtained above, a unit change in community participation factors while holding other factors constant would change implementation of water projects under devolution by a factor of 0.517; a unit change in financial resources factors while holding the other factors constant would change implementation of water projects under devolution by a factor of 0.197, a unit change in intergovernmental relations factors while holding other factors constant would change implementation of water projects under devolution by a factor 0.269 while a unit change in political goodwill factors while holding the other factors constant would change implementation of water projects under devolution by a factor of 0.230.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the discussion of key data findings, conclusion drawn from the findings highlighted and recommendation made there-to, the conclusions and recommendations drawn were focused on addressing the objective of the study. The researcher had intended to establish the factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The study targeted a sample size of 170 respondents from which 123 filled in and returned the questionnaires making a response rate of 72.4%. This response rate was satisfactory to make conclusions for the study as it acted as a representative. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and over is excellent. Based on the assertion, the response rate was excellent. Results obtained show that majority of the respondents 40.7% were between 30 and 39 years. From the research findings, the study revealed that 64% of the respondents placed greater attachment of agricultural productivity emanating from sustainable county funded water projects.

5.2.1 Community Participation and Implementation of Water Projects

The study revealed that community involvement in implementation of water projects sponsored by county government helps to provide invaluable support during the implementation of the activities. Based on research findings, greater emphasis was placed on provision of project's labour and its influence on cost of wages at 68.3% as important community participation attributes in the implementation of county funded water projects. Respondents agreed largely that community participation at 64.1% does lead to sustainability of county funded water projects. The implementation of sustainable county funded water projects was also largely at 64% found to contribute to improve agricultural productivity.

5.2.2 Financial Resources and Implementation of Water Projects

The research revealed that the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County was not sufficient, water funded projects were faced with challenges during implementation and key among them is delayed receipt of funds. Based on the research findings, majority of respondents at 60% disagreed that amount allocated for implementation of county government's water projects is sufficient. Greater emphasis was placed on funds disbursements procedural delays as respondents agreed largely at 75.0% that this do influence the implementation of county government's funded water projects. From the research findings, majority of respondents at 70% agreed that sufficient allocation of funds did influence the reduced cases of water borne diseases in the county under study.

5.2.3 Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation of Water Projects

The study revealed that lack of clear policies and dispute resolution mechanisms between the national and county government crippled down the implementation of projects in Meru County. Based on study findings, majority of respondents at 70% agreed that supremacy battles between the national and county governments exist and this largely influence the implementation of water projects at the devolved level of governance. Greater emphasis was placed on technical expertise as respondents largely at 56.0% agreed that these do influence the implementation of water projects at the devolved level of governance.

The findings are in support of the research by Gelu, (2008) in who did contend that good working relations between the central government and provincial governments did expedite the implementation of water projects in Papua New Guinea.

5.2.4 Political Goodwill and Implementation of Water Projects

The study revealed that bureaucracy in tendering was major hindrance to the implementation of water projects in Meru County, some water projects in Meru County had stalled as result of political patronage. Based on research findings, greater emphasis was placed on the influence of bureaucracy in tendering process on implementation of water projects as majority of respondents at 63.0% largely acknowledged this. Respondents agreed to a great extent at 59.4% that sustainable water projects at devolved level of governance lead to

economic empowerment of the populace in Meru County. Respondents also at 56.0% placed greater emphasis on the influence of political patronage on the implementation of water projects at the devolved governance level.

The study noted that the bureaucracy involved in the tendering of water projects influenced the implementation of these projects; bureaucracy in tendering was major hindrance to the implementation of water projects in Meru County, some water projects in Meru County had stalled as result of political patronage. The findings are in support of the research by Harsono, (2003) observed that the implementation of water projects under devolved governments in the country was interfered with by local political establishments which derailed the successful realization of these projects as most of them stalled due to political patronage.

5.3 Discussion of the findings

This section focuses on the discussion of the findings relative to what previous researchers have found on the study variables. It correlates the findings with those of the previous literature and establishes where they are in agreement or they contradicted.

5.3.1 Community Participation and Implementation of Water Projects

In line with the first objective, the study noted that community participation level have a direct effect on implementation of water projects, community participation ensures that felt needs are served, involving beneficiaries helps to shape the project to their specific needs in ways that outside planners cannot, community participation promoted the sustainability of water projects in, community participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitates the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects.

Further respondents reported that community involvement in implementation of water projects sponsored by county government helps to provide invaluable support during the implementation of the activities, community participation in implementation of water projects sponsored by county government helps to tap free labour thus reducing operational cost, community participation acts as a catalyst for further development; encourages a sense of responsibility; guarantees that a felt need is involved; ensures things are done the right

way; uses valuable indigenous knowledge and that it helps to improve accountability and transparency.

The research also noted that community participation process builds the capacity of the community by encouraging the acquisition of relevant skills in the identification of local resources, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the sustainability of water projects implemented by the county government of Meru and that community participation helped to builds on local strengths, creativity and resource, and actively seeks to decrease dependency on, and vulnerability to, economic interests outside the community as a result sustainability is ensured. Community in the implementation of water projects helped to tap free labour which reduced the cost of implementation. Respondents also reported that project management oversight committee should carefully assess the interest of the local communities and formulate clear policies of engagement this will help to eliminate intergroup conflicts thereby increasing the efficiency in the implementation process

The research revealed that implementation of sustainable water projects under devolution would improve the agricultural productivity in Meru County. The study noted that water projects under devolution provided irrigation increase the productivity of smallholder agricultural and agribusiness producers. Wages charged for labor provided by the community in the implementation of water projects under devolution do influence the implementation of these projects; the involvement of the community in water projects implementation by the county government makes these projects sustainable. The findings concur with the research by Mikkelsen (1995:47) argued that participation is the sensitization of people to increase their receptivity and ability to respond to development projects.

The research revealed that the failure by the county government to embrace community participation in the implementation of water projects influenced the better planning process for the implementation of these projects and that the failure to access raw materials by devolved governments from the beneficiary community does influence the implementation of water projects. The findings are in supported of the literature by Esonu and Kavanamur, (2011) who contend that stakeholder participation did positively influence the successful implementation of water projects implemented.

5.3.2 Financial Resources and Implementation of Water Projects

The research revealed that the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County was not sufficient. Water funded projects were faced with challenges during implementation like delayed receipt of funds. This leads to uncertainties in the implementation activities and sometimes abandonment of project activities. Sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects facilitated a decrease in the number of reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County. The inconsistent in releasing funds, most of the water projects are not completed on time and implementation activities are punctuated with occasional stoppages of project works hence delayed benefits to intended citizens, funds must be clearly designated and committed to the project so as to ensure successful implementation of activities without the possibility of stalling and subsequent abandonment.

The study also revealed that timely disbursement of funds for implementation of water projects influenced the implementation process of these projects in Meru County. The amount of money allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects, and that disbursement procedural delays of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects do influence the implementation of water projects. The findings are in supported of the literature by findings conforms with the findings by Ayodele (2011) that most community development projects have failed to become self-reliant due to lack of funds and poor budgeting.

Further the, research revealed that the sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of water projects facilitates decreased cases of water borne diseases and that The rate of flow of water projects' funds under devolution influences the implementation of these projects. The findings concurs with the findings by Authority (2009), Disbursement of funds is the most important aspect of project implementation

5.3.3 Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation of Water Projects

The research established that management team regularly received technical experts in the implementation of water projects, the national government directly fund water projects in Meru County. Rivalry with the central government especially in the area of taxes which

derailed the disbursement of development funds to regional governments which had an adverse influence on the implementation of water projects. The findings are in line with the research by Serrano and Patricia, (2011) who observed that sour intergovernmental relations did have negative influence on the implementation process of water projects in Peru.

The study also noted that poor coordination between national and county government like timely disbursement of funds hampered the progress of county initiated projects and that lack of clear policies and dispute resolution mechanisms between the national and county government crippled down the implementation of projects in Meru County. The findings are in support of the research by Gelu, (2008) in who did contend that good working relations between the central government and provincial governments did expedite the implementation of water projects in Papua New Guinea.

The study further reveled that revealed that supremacy battles between the national government and county government influence the implementation of water projects. The research also noted that political problems are the major causes of the difficulties experienced by projects in Meru, Good working relationship necessitates the exchange of technical personnel who assist in the implementation of public service projects such as water Existence of a weak political/government commitment subject the process of project implementation to political pressure thus negatively affecting the whole exercise projects. The findings are in support of the research by Feiock, (2004) who contend competition, mistrust and intentions to sabotage were the biggest threat to projects implemented under the devolved system of governance.

5.3.4 Political Goodwill and Implementation of Water Projects

In line with the fourth objective, the study noted that the bureaucracy involved in the tendering of water projects influenced the implementation of these projects; bureaucracy in tendering was major hindrance to the implementation of water projects in Meru County, some water projects in Meru County had stalled as result of political patronage. The findings are in support of the research by Harsono, (2003) observed that the implementation of water projects under devolved governments in the country was interfered with by local political establishments which derailed the successful realization of these projects as most of them stalled due to political patronage

The research also established that implementation of sustainable water projects through the reduction of bureaucracy in tendering would lead to economic empowerment of the Meru populace; there exists a positive relationship between irrigation development and increased regional economic activity, the sustainable implementation of water projects by the county government leads to economic empowerment of the Meru Populace and that Funds allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects as shown by a mean of 4.20. The findings are in support of the research by Eichbaum, (2011) report that less bureaucratic processes and patronage has a positive relationship with the successful implementation of water projects by regional governments in the country

Further the study revealed that bureaucracy in tendering of water projects under devolution influenced the implementation of county initiated water projects as and that political patronage influenced the implementation of water projects under devolution. The findings are in support of the research by Allen and Hasnain, (2010) who observed that high levels of bureaucratic tendencies in the identification of water project contractors characterized by clientelism did have a negative influence on the implementation of water projects at the devolved provincial government levels.

5.4 Conclusions

The study concludes that community participation had a direct influence on implementation of water projects in Meru County, participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitated the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects and that community participation helped to build on local strengths, creativity and that community participation helped to align project needs to community specific needs that outside planners cannot, community participation promoted the sustainability of water projects community.

The study concludes that adequate financial resources are key drivers in implementation of water projects in Meru County, the rate of flow of water projects' funds under devolution influences the implementation of these projects, water projects should have sound financial base arising from reliable sources of funding and that funds must be clearly designated and

committed to the project so as to ensure successful implementation of activities without the possibility of stalling and subsequent abandonment.

The study concludes that intergovernmental relations affected the implementation of water projects in Meru County, sour intergovernmental relations had negative influence on the implementation process of water projects and that lack of clear policies and dispute resolution mechanisms between the national and county government crippled down the implementation of projects in Meru County

The study concludes that political goodwill had a direct influence on the implementation of water projects in Meru County, implementation of water projects under devolved governments in the country was interfered with by local political establishments and that high levels of bureaucratic tendencies, competition, mistrust and intentions to sabotage posed threat to projects implemented under the devolved system of governance.

5.5 Recommendation

The study established that community participation had a direct influence on implementation of water projects in Meru County. Therefore the study concludes that the role of community in implementation of water projects should be articulated in the implementation plan. Local beneficiaries must be involved in all stages in the implementation process.

Both county and national government need to design and harmonize funds disbursement procedures acceptable to both parties. The processes especially in regard to replenishment requests, the format and classification of expenses and their eligibility for financing by the party must be expressly stated and clear

The study noted that there existed conflict of interest between national government and county governments especially on sharing of national resources like water and minerals. In this case the study recommends for implementation of policies that clearly clarify on natural resources under control of national government and those under control county government

This existence of political patronage was found to sabotage the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County. Therefore the study recommends' strong policies that advocacy measures need to be put in place. This will help

curb political selfish which impede implementation of water projects under the devolved system.

5.5 Recommendations for further studies

The focus of this study was to investigate the factors influencing the implementation of water projects under the devolved system of governance in Meru County where variables studied were only limited to four which included, community participation factors, financial resources factors, intergovernmental relations factors and that political goodwill factors . The study variables only accounted for 65.3 percent changes on sustainability of community based projects in Kenya. The study recommends that other factors accounting for the remaining 34.7% need to be identified and their effects assessed as well.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix I: Letter of Transmittal of Data Collection Instruments

Munene Martin Zakayo
P.O BOX 3107 - 60200,
Meru- Kenya.

Dear Sir /Madam,

RE: Letter To The respondents

I am currently a student at The University of Nairobi pursuing a Masters degree in Project Planning and Management to meet the requirements of the programme I am undertaking a study on ***FACTORS INFLUENCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS UNDER THE DEVOLVED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE IN KENYA, WITH REFERENCE TO MERU COUNTY.***

Kindly provide data which I require for this study through the provided study instruments.

The data you provide will be used for research purpose only and your identity will be held confidential.

Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,

Munene Martin Zakayo

L50/77024/2015

Appendix II: Questionnaire for Water Sector Employees, Ward Administrators and Assistants

This questionnaire is to collect data for purely academic purposes. You are kindly requested to answer the questions as sincerely as possible. The information you will give will only be used for research purposes and your identity will be treated with confidentiality.

Fill the questionnaire by putting a tick \surd in the appropriate box or by writing your response in the provided spaces.

PART A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Please indicate your age?

20-29 () 30-39 () 40-49 () 50 and above

2. Indicate your Gender.

Male () Female ()

3. What is your level of education?

Certificate () Diploma () Degree () Masters and Above

Any other please specify _____

4. How long have you worked as an employee/ ward administrator for the Meru County government? Please write down in the space provided?

5. How many water projects has the County Government of Meru implemented since its inception?

PARTB: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FACTORS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS

6. Does involvement of community in the implementation of water projects lead to better planning of these projects by the county government?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

7. Does community participation in the implementation of water projects under county governments make the projects more sustainable?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

8. Would you say embracing of community participation by devolved units in the implementation of water projects facilitates the access of raw materials needed in the implementation of these projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

9. In what ways does community participation make water projects implemented by the county government of Meru more sustainable?

10. Does community participation in the implementation of water projects under the county government influence the wages charged for labor provided in the implementation of these projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

11. Suggest ways in which the County government of Meru would better involve the community in the implementation of water projects?

12. Would you say that the implementation of sustainable water projects under devolution would improve the agricultural productivity in MeruCounty?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

13. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Statement	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly agree 5
Wages charged for labor provided by the community in the implementation of water projects under devolution do influence the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The failure to access raw materials by devolved governments from the beneficiary community does not influence the implementation of water projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The involvement of the community in water projects implementation by the county government makes these projects sustainable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The failure by the county government to embrace community participation in the implementation of water projects does not influence the better planning process for the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART C: FINANCIAL RESOURCES FACTORS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS

14. Would you say the amount allocated for the implementation of water projects in Meru County is sufficient?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

15. In what ways does the rate of flow of funds meant for the implementation of water projects by the county government influence the implementation process of these projects?

16. Does the sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects facilitate a decrease in the number of reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

17. Are funds meant for the implementation of water projects disbursed in good time and how does this influence the implementation process of these projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

18. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Statement	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly agree 5
The rate of flow of water projects' funds under devolution does not influence the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disbursement procedural delays of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects do influence the implementation of water projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of water projects does not facilitate decreased cases of water borne diseases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of money allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART: D INTERGOVERNMENTAL REALTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS

19. Do you receive any technical experts in the implementation of water projects and how does this influence the implementation of these projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

20. Does the national government directly fund water projects in Meru County and how many projects have been funded so far?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

21. Do supremacy battles between the national government and county government influence the implementation of water projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

22. Suggest measures that can be put in place to cultivate better working intergovernmental relations that would lead to better implementation of water projects?

PART E: POLITICAL GOODWILL FACTORS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER PROJECTS

23. Do you believe that the bureaucracy involved in the tendering of water projects influences the implementation of these projects?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

24. Are there water projects in Meru County that have stalled as result of political patronage?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

25. In what ways does the amount allocated for water projects by the county assembly and county government of Meru influence the implementation of these projects?

26. Do you believe the implementation of sustainable water projects through the reduction of bureaucracy in tendering of these projects would lead to economic empowerment of the Meru populace?

Yes () No ()

Explain your answer.

27. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Statement	Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
-----------	----------	----------	---------	-------	----------

	Disagree				agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Bureaucracy in tendering of water projects under devolution does not influence the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funds allocated for the implementation of water projects does influence the implementation of these projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sustainable implementation of water projects by the county government leads to economic empowerment of the Meru Populace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Political patronage does not influence the implementation of water projects under devolution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix III: County Assembly Members Interview Guide

1. Kindly tell me about yourself.
2. Would you say that embracing of community participation in implementation of water projects by the county government facilitates the accessing of affordable labor for these projects?
3. Would you say that the implementation of sustainable water projects by the county government would improve agricultural productivity in Meru County?
4. Is the amount of money allocated by the county government for the implementation of water projects enough and if not what should be done?
5. Would you say that the rate of flow of water projects' funds is reliable and how does this influence the implementation of these projects by the county government?
6. Are there local sources of funds that influence the implementation water projects by the county government of Meru and how do they influence the implementation process of these projects?
7. Is the disbursement of projects' funds allocated for the implementation of water projects done in good time and how does this influence the implementation of these projects?
8. Does the sufficient allocation of funds by the county government for the implementation of water projects decrease reported cases of water borne diseases in Meru County?
9. Does your county receive technical experts from the national government to assist in the implementation of water projects and how does this influence the implementation process of these projects?
10. Are there conflicts between the national and county government and what is their influence on the implementation of water projects in Meru County?
11. What is the influence of bureaucracy of tendering projects on the implementation of water projects in Meru County?
12. What is the influence of existing water laws on the implementation of water projects in Meru County?
13. What is the influence of amount allocated in county budget on the implementation of water projects in Meru County?

14. How would the implementation of sustainable water projects by the county government lead to economic empowerment of the populace in Meru County?