THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: A CASE OF KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA

BY

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DECLARATION

Declaration by Candidate

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DEDICATION

To my loving family: my dear wife Jacline Chesang Ngeno, my son Kibet Dhillon and my daughter Nelias Chepkirui. They have been very supportive throughout the period of writing this work. I also thank my parents Mr. Philip Lang'at and Mrs. Kevin Lang'at, their encouragement and financial support is not in vain. God bless you abundantly.

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ABSTRACT

This research assessed the effectiveness of public participation in county government development projects, in Kericho County. The researcher was concerned that the legal and institutional framework in Kericho County, has failed to guarantee the full attainment of the goals of the 2010 constitution, on public participation. The specific objectives were: to assess the modes of participation by the public in county development projects; to analyze the extent of involvement of the public in county development projects; and to investigate the level of access to information for the public concerning county development projects. The study adopted *The Rational Choice Model* by Adam Smith to be able to explain participation of individuals in county projects. The study utilized concurrent mixed research design. The researcher deployed purposive sampling as part of cluster sampling. Primary data collection was executed using questionnaires with both structured and unstructured questions, and interview schedules. Secondary data was obtained through document and reports analysis. A selected sample of 250 respondents from an infinite population of approximately 375,668 (IEBC Voter register 2017) citizen aged 18years and above was used in the study. 10 respondents were involved in the interview schedule. The treatment and analysis of data in this research was done considering the research questions. Data analysis was done using SPSS program which gave two descriptive statistics; frequencies, and percentages. The results were presented in tables and used to discuss the findings. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The study established that despite the various modes of participation, the most used mode was election of project leaders which yielded a response of 106 or 45.5% of the total response; it was noted that, most people may not be aware of the importance of their participation, and thus could not embrace these modes. The study also found out that public involvement at various levels of project development may be quite low, with the highest being project identification and implementation both of which yielded about twenty-five percent 25.4% response. The study further established that the main sources of information on county development projects are *barazas* (public meetings) that were affirmed by about fifty-one percent 50.6% respondents; social media/internet/website was affirmed by 104 about forty-five percent 44.6% of the respondents; other sources were underutilized. The study concludes that, participation in development projects is below the desired levels. This study recommends that, Kericho County need to improve public participation in development projects in all sectors and even more, ensure that it achieves greater positive impact.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CDF   - Constituency Development Fund

CoK   - Constitution of Kenya

DFRD   - District Focus for Rural Development

IEBC   - Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

KADU   - Kenya African Democratic Union

KANU   - Kenya African National Union

LASDAP   - Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan

NARC   - National Rainbow Coalition Party

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Baraza-   This refers to public meetings conducted in parts of the county that can either adopt a formal or informal set up determined by the issue to be discussed. It is used by the public administration in deliberation of issues at the lowest or village level.

Development Projects-They include construction of water points, dispensaries, health centers, road grading, and development of early childhood development centers.

Participation- A series of actions that citizens undertake to contribute in the affairs of their own governments or community programs.

Public-   Inhabitants of the county who are eligible to participate in decision making processes and are beneficiaries of county programs. Also, "ordinary citizens" opposed to organized groups of individuals with special expertise in monitoring, evaluation and policy areas.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The following elements are presented in this chapter: introduction of concepts; statement of the problem, and an outline of the objectives of study. While discussing public participation, the researcher highlighted systematically on participation globally beginning from developed countries, continent wise, regionally and finally at the study area.

1.1 Background of the Study

The idea of public involvement in government decision making has been in existence for long. Public participation traces its origin to ancient Greece around 508 BC. It was around the same time that emphasis on citizen participation in decision making gained importance. The same period did also see the creation of public participation and constitutional laws. There is evidence however that public participation may have existed in several parts of the world before 5th century BC (Muse and Narsiah, 2015). Public participation as a concept is not limited to the involvement of the citizens in the process of electing their representatives. It means all the processes that enable engagement of the public in decision-making.

Generally, there was limited literature on "Citizen Involvement" or "Public participation" in the 1970s and before. Years after the decade however, as democracy developed in different parts worldwide, it then became evident that discussion on citizen participation were inevitable. Norman Wengert (1976:25) for instance notes that, although participation as a phenomenon may have grown globally, evidence shows that the drive for seeking such participation differed depending on the perspectives from which the subject was being approached. Wengert (1976), gave some of the perspectives as being institutional, economic contexts, political and

personal interests, and which on keen observation are still relevant in today's context more than three decades later.

Western democracies particularly that of the United States of America have developed over a long time and as such are seen as the leaders in the process of democratisation. The level of public participation for the US is marked with high level of transparency and accountability. The growth of public participation in the US is a complex and dynamic process. In the last three decades, the process has evolved from reliance on federally mandated legislation to more cooperative multi-sectoral alliances (Creighton, 2005).

According to European Institute for Public Participation, participation in three countries in Europe: United Kingdom, Germany and Italy, is a popular alternative for making routine decisions and solving conflicts in public life. In most European Union member states, arrangements to allow direct involvement of the public in policymaking are in place. Some of those already in place cover issues such as planning, urban development, environmental questions or science policies. Most of the provisions are effected at community level. The impact on the local community therefore is immediate and questions of representation are less pronounced. The use of citizens' local knowledge is attractive. Participation in Europe takes place at the national and even at the European Union (EU) level. Some examples of public participation being practiced in Europe range from surveys, through hearings, public meetings, referenda, citizen juries, consensus conferences or scenario workshops (EIPP, 2009).

A brief highlight on the process of Public Participation in Italy, show that, Italy combines strong civil society activity, and therefore strong social capital, with a

weakness in democratic trust (EIPP, 2009). The report points out a strikingly high concentration of information and media resources and a fundamental, long-standing mistrust of the political caste. This he says, results in public participation becoming oppositional instrument that empowers the people rather than a cooperative effort by civil society and public administration. For example, in Kenya, although public participation is enshrined in the constitution, that alone is not enough to guarantee effectiveness. Unless those charged with the duty of implementation ensure complete functionality of structures and policies for participation.

In Eastern Asia for example, a study by Haque (2003), reveals that, although the area represents some of the most successful economies such as Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and China, still the level of political and administrative developments remains controversial. This is significant in the level of public participation in governance through various democratic means, including the formation and expression of public opinion, people's involvement in government decisions and deliberations, and direct representation of Citizens in governing institutions. Participation in Asian continent both east and west is far behind expectation. Governments have made little attempts to embrace the use of public participation in coming up with workable solutions to peoples' problems.

A general overview of public participation in Latin America portrays a fast-growing democratic process. Boosted in part by the region's democratic transitions, citizen participation efforts have continued to increase throughout the region. The initiatives being put in place, promoted by both governments and civil society have focused on: efforts to strengthen governance, improve social justice, enhance accountability and control, and ensure that government funds and policies address relevant social issues

and benefit socially excluded groups. Many of Latin American countries' constitutions include citizen consultations provisions and secondary laws, which regulate consultations in specific sectors or at the local level, complement several of these constitutions. Countries that have created such opportunities include Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru (Oropeza and Perron, 2013).

Throughout Latin America, several initiatives to utilise public participation in improvement of oversight activities in public policies and programs have gained momentum. Governments have opened spaces and institutional mechanisms for citizens to perform monitoring and control activities. Other initiatives of great importance come from groups of organised citizens seeking to enhance government accountability and reduce incidences of corruption in government institutions. Two initiatives that have to do with overseeing government spending are; participation in supreme audit institutions and participation in procurement processes. The other initiatives focus on overseeing public performance in implementing specific policies and initiatives (Oropeza and Perron, 2013).

In many Africa countries, public participation has come to be an area of interest in the last three decades. In West Africa for example, DerBebelleh and Nobabumah, (2013) drew lessons from literature and empirical evidence from three districts in the upper west region of Ghana. They then state that, public participation is way below the expected levels in the district assemblies. They attribute it to low awareness among citizens, poor remuneration of assembly members and the ill resourcefulness of the area councils. Their work simply highlights the role of political leaders in promoting public participation. The resources from central government to the assemblies are limited. Leadership in Africa portray some high level of tyranny and that explains

why public participation campaigns have depended so much on external forces like international non-governmental organisations and civil society actions to gain a path to constitutional making processes.

In East Africa, a brief highlight on Uganda, portray high level of decentralisation and promotion of public participation activities. The local council system has created perfect opportunities for public participation at all levels. It has also availed several means through which different groups in the society, including the poor, can be involved in governmental decision-making processes. Issues of gender and minority groups are protected through reserved seats for the youth, women and the disabled. At every level of governance, a system of annual budget conferences is in place. This allows the public a voice in making choices and prioritizing issues for the following government financial year. A practical example is the Local Government Development Program (LGDP), which provides real choices from a list of local infrastructural programs that match the national programs like those of water, education, health among others (Kauzya, 2007).

In Kenya, devolution gives a voice and a means to the population to participate directly in their affaires. Many public participation programs in Kenya are initiated in response to public demand, or the way the government performs. According to Cogan and Sharpe (1986), they give five benefits of providing for public participation in every planning process: the process provides information and important ideas on public issues; it gains public support for planning decisions; it helps to avoid protracted conflicts and costly delays; it helps to cultivate goodwill from the public which can ease future cooperation and decisions; and it helps promote trust between agency and the public. The impact of public participation is not just limited to those

who participate; it focuses on bringing everybody on board. The actions of a few citizens can have great impacts on an entire community. Therefore, the more citizens participate in the activities of their government, the more they appreciate the projects undertaken by the county government.

1.1.1 History of public participation in Kenya

Wakwabubi and Shiverenje (2003), argue that, like in many other countries, participatory development in Kenya was limited to community development projects that were donor funded and supervised. The District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) changed all that. DFRD was a comprehensive plan that was implemented in 1983. The main emphasis of that DFRD was on the involvement of the central government officials in the field, to plan and implement programs. But DFRD failed to take into consideration the indigenous knowledge and experiences which was in fact self-defeating. Planning was centralised still at the district level and was performed by planning officials, contrary to the conception of participatory approach (Chitere and Ireri 2008). Another challenge with the structure of the DFRD was that the District Developmental Committee (DDC), charged with implementation was mainly composed of civil servants. Such public officials with several other government obligations in their technical areas could not run broad developmental programs. It is expected that in participation, civil servants are supposed to assist the public identify and solve their own challenges.

In 1996, the Physical Planning Act was enacted by parliament and this was a key improvement in the development and evolution of participatory planning and development. The statute provided for the participation of the community in the development and implementation of physical and development plans. Okello, *et.al*

(2008) note that, the weakness of the Physical Planning Act 1996, was its failure to sensitize the public on their roles. When public is not informed, they will not have a basis on which they can contribute or question the ongoing plans and projects. Another weakness of the planning process is the fact that, it was also based in the urban and hence communities living in the rural areas remained largely marginalized in participatory planning.

In the period after 2001, Kenya has had the Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which had a greater aspect of community participation compared to DFRD (Nyanjom, 2011). LASDAP was introduced in 2001 through a ministerial circular. LASDAP were three year rolling plans that were tailored with the focus on poverty, with the main issues being in the areas of health, education, and infrastructure. LASDAP nonetheless had weaknesses. Several projects were left incomplete and their impact could not be ascertained. It should be noted that, the lack of a legal provision to protect LASDAP meant that, it was being implemented administratively (Oyugi and Kibua, 2006). In fact, the only guidelines that existed for any government planning were the various Acts that had been passed by different ministries and which provided a legal provision to hinge all government projects before new constitution 2010.

The CDF was established through an act of parliament, CDF Act (2003). CDF aimed at decentralizing resources to the 210 constituencies at that time and could get a higher rating as being one single step that was most successful in the efforts by government to decentralize planning and decision making on development in the country. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF), was aimed at constituency level projects specifically those that could help to reduce poverty levels. The CDF

was largely successful in the efforts to involve the public in development (Kimani, Nekesa and Ndungu (2012).

The current practice in the implementation of the constitution in Kenya is the height of a process whose aim is to see the public participate in decision making. Muriu (2013), note that, devolution has helped to promote public participation in development planning and increase opportunity for political participation, therefore promoting the culture of democracy. Devolution has also promoted a sense of ownership, so that leaders serve their own people, with the people keen to monitor how resources allocated to their areas help to improve the quality of their lives.

1.1.2 Public participation under the devolved government

There is a great significance in the administrative changes that were brought about by implementation of devolution in Kenya in 2013. Some of the roles that previously belonged to the central government have been transferred to the county governments. Transparency and accountability are guaranteed through Article 201 (1) (a) of the constitution, which states that there should be openness, accountability, and public participation in matters to do with county finances. The decentralization adopted in Kenya, is used as a governance tool that is based on the principle of subsidiarity. This principle assigned specific functions that were initially controlled by the central government, to sub-centers (county governments) at the periphery. Such distribution of work includes: problem identification, problem solving, policy making, revenue generation, planning, monitoring and evaluation among others. However, the public, who were the main target when devolution was adopted, are much concerned about the impact of the devolved system of governance. This is particularly in areas like

planning, budgeting, human resource, revenue enhancement and citizen access to information (Ndalila, 2016).

Many scholars in administration place emphasis on local management as being in a good position to put into use local good will, enthusiasm and knowledge. Cheema and Rondinelli, (2007), for example explain that, decentralization serves as a means to overcome limitations of central planning by the national government. The process is achieved through delegation of more authority to officials at local levels who are closer to the problems of the public. This is expected to reduce red tapes, increase the knowledge of the officials and their sensitivity to local problems.

According to the Kenyan section of International Commission of Jurists (2013), "Devolution is the process of transferring decision-making and implementation powers, functions, responsibilities and resources to legally constituted, and popularly elected local governments". Final Report of the Taskforce on Devolved Government in Kenya, (2011) noted that devolution comes in different forms. Kenya adopted one form that is unique to itself. It is based on Article 6(2) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), where it provides that, "The governments at the national and county levels are distinct and inter-dependent and shall conduct their mutual relationships on the basis of consultation and cooperation". The form of devolution Kenya implemented borrowed heavily from South African form of devolution. The architects of Kenyan form of devolution inspired by forms of devolution in other countries tailored it uniquely and perfectly to serve the country's needs informed by past experiences and history. Nyanjom, (2011), notes that, devolution is the strongest form of decentralization. Under this type of decentralization, citizens are empowered to elect their own leaders locally and make decisions on matters affecting their lives.

Cheema and Rondinelli (2007) explains that, decentralization would allow better penetration of national policies to the remote local communities, allow greater representation of religious and ethnic groups in the policy process and improve administrative capability at local levels. The process provide structures in which local projects can be coordinated, public participation enhanced, and dismantles entrenched local elites- who often work against national development policies. Devolution may also result in an innovative, flexible and creative administration, one that is more effective in its implementation with simplified monitoring and evaluation. In Kenya therefore, devolution facilitates governance by ensuring that decision-making process is as close to the people as possible. Public participation at the local level has the potential to generate the greatest desired effect. This means, if public participation policies and structures are fully functional at local levels, then people have greater say in development plans and projects concerning them.

1.1.3 Legal framework for Public Participation in Kenya

(a) Constitution of Kenya 2010

Citizen participation is based on the principle of sovereignty of the people of Kenya. Sovereignty of the people is expressed in Article 1 (1) of the constitution which states that "all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with this constitution". The constitution of Kenya Article 10 (2) (a) further recognizes public participation as one of the national values and principles of governance. It states among other values "…. democracy and participation of the people". Citizen participation cuts across the entire constitution and in fact anchors on this section of the constitution. Chapter 11, Article (174) (c) and (d) of the constitution which further provides for the power of self-governance by the people and enhances their participation in decision-making. In regard to this section of the

constitution, it is expected that focus will be on empowerment, equity, prudent use of public resources and improved service delivery. Public participation is a vital ingredient of devolution process.

There are several clauses in the constitution that consistently facilitate public participation various functions of governance. For instance, Article (232) (d) of the constitution grants that, the public should be involved in policy making processes in the public service. Article 196 (1) (b) guarantees the facilitation of public participation and involvement in the legislative and other businesses of the assembly and its committees.

(b) County Government Act 2012

The county government Act, (2012), Part VIII (87), lists specific principles that serve as the basis for citizen participation at the county level. Although this Act lists several points, it is important to note the following; (a) There should be timely access to information related to policy formulation and implementation, (b) access to the process of formulation and implementation of laws and regulations in the county and (g) recognition and promotion of the valuable roles of non-state actors' participation in government facilitation and oversight duties.

(c) Kericho County Public Participation Act 2014

In Kericho, the county has been able to develop a legal framework for public participation. These are great strides towards achieving functional structures for public involvement at the country and sub-county levels. For instance, the county passed the Kericho County public participation Act (2014) which stipulates how public participation will be carried out effectively in every department within the county and further establishes an office that will oversee the implementation of the of

the Act in accordance with the constitution. It may be evident by now that the government of Kenya is committed to ensuring success of the public participation process. This is significant in the various provisions in the constitution and other Acts, like the County Government Act (2012) and (Amendment) Act, (2014). Although public participation is guaranteed by the law, it can still be observed that, the level of public participation has not achieved its best. There is a perceived discrepancy between the provision of the law and what actually happens at the grassroots. There is still lack of understanding on what public participation entails to the common citizens. The policy and legal framework in place is viewed to be weak and ineffective and may therefore not guarantee quality public participation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The legal and institutional provision that was supposed to ensure public participation in county development projects may not have succeeded. The county government of Kericho is supposed to ensure there is public participation in all development projects. There have been concerns over poor performance and general laxity of county executive to manage their own development projects effectively hence loss of resources. Corruption cases have increased and that a few individuals are busy enriching themselves at the expense of the public. Effective public participation has the capacity to ensure accountability and prudent use of public resources.

In order to ensure proper and efficient use of public resources, the constitution of Kenya 2010, envisaged a situation where public participation mechanisms are applied in the devolved units, by creating various public participation policies. Despite the policies in place, Kericho County has experienced problems ranging from: summoning of political leaders, an attempt to impeach the governor, petitioning from

the public concerning poor performance, and disagreements between the governor and the senator. This has led to demonstrations and summoning of leaders, at county level, to explain unclear circumstances under which public funds are either misused, unaccounted for, or projects implemented are sub-standard.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of Public Participation in county government development projects in Kericho County. The specific objectives of the study were.

(i)   To assess modes of participation by the public in county development projects.

(ii)   To investigate how the public access information concerning county development projects.

(iii)   To analyze the extent of involvement of the public in county development projects.

1.4 Research Questions

(i)   What is the effectiveness of different modes that the public uses to participate in county development projects?

(ii)   How does the public access information on county development projects?

(iii)   What is the extent of involvement of the public in county development projects?

1.5 Justification of the Study

This research study is unique considering that, despite all what the other researchers have done on public participation, no one empirical study had been done on the effectiveness of public participation process in county government development projects in Kericho County. A number of county governments in Kenya have faced

several administrative challenges associated with the transition from the previous system of centralised government to the new system as provided in the constitution of Kenya (2010). The study therefore sets out to investigate whether the public finds opportunity to effectively participate as provided by the constitution and other policies to ensure success in county development projects.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research study has come up with recommendations that help to explain and improve the current role of public participation in development projects in Kericho County. If adopted, they have the ability to ensure effective and efficient public projects implementation process. The study further generates ideas that can apply across the counties in Kenya especially where conditions match those of the study setting.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focused on public participation in county government development projects and how participation policies ensure success or failure of the process. This includes seeking a clear understanding of the level of involvement for instance in planning, organizing and implementing projects; it also, interrogated modes of participation including attending fora, consultative meetings and seminars. The study further assessed the sources of information on county projects by the public. The county government has the obligation to ensure such a process is effective by ensuring proper implementation of public participation policies and the subsequent creation of new policies to handle emerging issues. The county government is also supposed to ensure that the existing structures for public participation are effective and allows for feedback from the beneficiaries.

1.7.1 Assumptions of the study

The following assumptions make up for what the researcher thought about the study setting.

(a) Devolved government has enhanced public participation in development in Kericho County.

(b) The population across Kericho County, experience the same conditions of service delivery from the county government.

The next chapter will focus on literature review in order to identify gaps in public participation literature and further learn what has already been done in the area of public participation by other scholars.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher reviewed literature thematically, under the following sub-headings: Modes of public participation, levels of public participation, importance of information access to public participation and Impact of public participation. The researcher also provides a theoretical and a conceptual framework that guided the process of research.

2.2 Modes of Public Participation

There are various modes of participation which can be used by the public. Kauzya (2007), for instance, categorizes participation into two, participation through voting and voice participation. Kauzya's categories are however not exhaustive. Other modes of participation discussed in this section include lobby groups, public hearings, peaceful demonstrations, social audits, citizen action groups and fora (Haste and Hogan, 2006).

2.2.1 Vote Participation

Voting represents a perfect example of participation and plays a fundamental role in politics. The most understood form of citizen participation which is also the most common is voting in elections and referenda. It is through voting that the views of most people are represented more than any other activity. Kauzya (2007), explains vote participation as the means by which citizen elect their leaders at the local levels. There is a difference between voting to elect representatives and voting on policy issues. Voting on policy issues entails a local or county government coming up with initiatives to create new laws or amend existing ones that affect activities within their

area of jurisdiction. The public are then invited to participate through the ballot. The ballot initiatives are not carried out by elected representatives, since the initiatives are intended to promote public participation.

Aklilu, Belete and Moyo (2014), noted that, voting alone may not solve the problems of public participation. As the initiatives increases, the public ends up voting on things they do not clearly understand. Besides, voting often oversimplifies problems and does not give priority to the most pressing needs. For example, national referendum often raises a question that requires a yes or no answer. The most effective referendum may need to raise multiple choice questions, which unfortunately renders the process complex. On the other hand, elected representatives or the legislature can actually strike a balance between the needs in the various sectors and share government revenue based on the most pressing to the least pressing ones. While ballot initiatives handle cases generally, legislature handles each case in a specific manner; legislature is also able to balance between for instance healthcare, education, security, among other initiatives.

King, Feltey and Susel (1998) noted that, both citizens and politicians have realized that traditional participation through the institutional channels of elections have very small impact on how policies are made: this is the main reason for the diminishing trust on government. If a government's legitimacy was to be measured using participation in national elections, many governments including developed democracies like USA are losing it. This is signified by the dwindling voter turnout in elections especially among the young population and the increasing street protests in many countries. In both 2008 and 2012 general elections in United States of America (USA), voter turnout was below 60% (Geer *et al.,* 2013). Also, there were major

demonstrations across cities in the USA after the 2016 general elections. After the 2013 and 2017 elections in Kenya, there were issues that lead to major demonstrations. These are signs of public disgruntlement with the government in place or the electoral processes.

Elected leaders are rewarded or punished after a specified period of time by voting them in or out. The process is however so indirect and hardly effective as an accountability mechanism because it fails to provide the public means to evaluate government performance on a regular basis (Aklilu, Belete and Moyo, 2014). Elections cannot therefore be of use in transforming a regime that tolerates poor performance. Elections do not also provide for a means to give feedback.

Elections follow processes and procedures that ensure they yield credible results (Alvarez and Hall, 2008). For instance, voters must be registered according the constitutional requirements. Voter eligibility is governed by election laws which vary for each country. Participation in elections for many countries depends entirely on the individual voter. Voter turnout will vary depending on the type of election. In Kenya for instance, there are national elections which allow citizen to choose leaders at various levels. Voter turnout is usually high due to the level of popularization of the process and the emphasis placed on participation. Kauzya, (2007), point that, in many countries, different elections are held for different levels of governance. For example, in the USA, they have state elections and local elections, midterm elections and presidential elections. The different elections experience different levels of voter turnout.

Kauzya, however fails to point out that in fact this process can be interfered with through rigging and may not always guarantee credible results. Despite being the

most common form of public participation, in most countries where elections are compromised, the process serves to stamp self-imposed leadership to the people.

2.2.2 Voice participation

Kauzya (2007), states that, voice participation allows the public to influence the decisions on development needs, in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. That includes demanding for accountability from the local leadership. Lederach (2005), explains that, voice centers on conversations that are inclusive, and that are grounded on understanding, mutuality and accessibility. He further explains that, when people have a voice, their thoughts, feelings and viewpoints receive a hearing, and are recognized. Such groups or individuals in the society possess the capacity to create an impact both in their personal situations and even in group struggles. Oduori (2019) note that, in many societies however, the people who lose their voice so easily, include minority groups, women and the poor.

Kauzya (2007), further explains voice participation to include: When members scrutinize written documents, magazines, newspapers and other materials to judge accuracy of information; When citizens are provided with opportunities to participate in public and private political discussions or debate on issues; When citizens lobby for an issue by convincing their member of parliament to vote in a particular manner that favors them or proposals they support; and when the citizen signs a petition on a desired governments action or policy or one meant to sanction a leader. Others are: when individuals or groups write to elected officials to try and express their opinions on an issue of concern; Citizens can also contribute money to political parties or candidates they would like to see elected because of the values they hold.; and citizens can also attend rallies and other public meetings to listen and contribute to

issues of concern to a community or a particular group. Finally, citizens, based on manifesto, can also participate by campaigning for a candidate of their choice during elections.

Other means include vying in an election, volunteering to serve the state, serving the country through military or other service to the country, and conducting peaceful civil disobedience of laws or policies that are seen as unjust. According to EIPP (2009), a clearly defined constitutional framework is a prerequisite for effective public participation. The authors further state that only through an explicit and shared understanding between politicians and the citizens can confidence be developed and public participation realize a democratizing potential. For example, in Kenya, the great provisions in the constitution 2010 only serves as legal provisions but the practical essence is complex and not clearly understood by everyone. If the process is implemented without the much-required interest in the details of the process as provided, public participation will remain at the level of tokenism. EIPP (2009), further emphasize on a systematic approach to public participation methods to help organizers of public participation processes choose the most suitable and effective methods.

For instance, there are several avenues or methods for citizen participation in Kenya. However, the avenues are only effective when the people are aware of their rights. For example, people participate through voting in an election as the first and most fundamental in forming a legitimate government. After leaders take over their positions in public offices, the public can then demand accountability from them through various means. The constitution of Kenya, 2010, directs the national and county governments to ensure that they institute means through which citizen can

participate in planning and contribute to development ideas in all matters concerning them.

One way of pressurizing the government when it fails to heed to the demands of the electorate, is through the formation of civil society movements and organizations in different regions of the country. Civil societies include all institutions, corporate bodies and voluntary organizations that are not part of the state or smaller than a state but are greater than the family. Civil societies have a variety of avenues which include; lobby groups, public hearing, peaceful demonstration, social audits and citizen action groups (Uraia Trust and International Republican Institute, 2012). There are other modes of participation that can be used to pressure government, to listen to individuals or groups of individuals. For example, people can organize public fora or locally organized *barazas* (public meetings), protests and riots.

2.2.3 Lobby groups

Mihaileanu and Horja (2009), defines lobbying as "a set of legal and transparent activities developed with openly declared intention of influencing the opinion of decision-makers". Irimieș, (2017) explains that, lobbying plays a crucial role in any democratic or administrative system that is based on legitimacy of decision, interest representation and public participation. This allows the decision-making processes and institutions to achieve higher accuracy in the control of interests, priorities and the orientation of representative groups. Globally, in the last three decades to the 2000's, lobbying activities increased exponentially. Anderson and Eliassen, (2000), for instance note that, lobbying activities across Europe increased tenfold between 1970 and 1980 and further fourfold to the mid-1990s. The findings from Anderson and Eliassen seem to agree with a report released by Transparency International EU,

showing the average expenditure on lobbying activities at 1.5 billion Euros per year (Mulcahy, 2015). The report further points out that, the biggest 20 companies in Europe spend up to 60 million Euros per year supporting lobbying activities.

According to Maruşca and Irimieş (2013), they argue that lobbies should be recognized as the most transparent ways of influencing and monitoring all legislative and executive public decisions. Lobbying, through its actions, seek to support rights, and other legitimate interests by promoting, enacting, amending and even repealing of some decisions and decrees made by public entities or authorities. It is important to note that, to succeed in their actions, the constitutions of the specific countries should protect and allow the right to create lobby groups and demand for rights whenever there is perceived infringement.

According to Mihaileanu and Horja (2009), lobbying is not just important to public policy making processes; rather it has more roles to play including for instance development of the human rights framework. Lobbying is closely connected to freedom of choice, freedom of speech and decision making. This is supported by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights where it states that, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; including freedom to hold opinion without any interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through all media regardless of frontiers (Assembly, U. G. 1948).

2.2.4 Public hearings

Public hearings are a mode of public participation. Kauzya, (2007), note that, the government usually through its officials organizes venues where they make presentations on a proposed decision. The public are then welcomed to provide their thoughts and opinions on the proposal. One disadvantage of such public hearings

however, is that those who attend, tend to be mostly the critics of government. This affects future government engagements with the public because it ends up reflecting the nature and extent of the opposition. In some cases, the public hearings fail to capture the overall opinion or even yield information on certain behavior of the electorate. Public hearings have a fair share of shortcomings especially in a politically volatile environment. The mode of public participation does not guarantee effective engagement on mutual cooperation and problem solving.

2.2.5 Peaceful demonstrations

Mihaileanu and Horja (2009), explain that, peaceful demonstrations and protests, are simply a means of expressing objection by action or by words. This is in relation to policies, particular events or situations. Protests can take the form of either mass demonstrations or individuals giving statements. In many cases, protests involve unconventional means or even unlawful political actions but with the aim of gaining political and economic rewards.

2.2.6 Social audits

Social audit is both an approach and a process that seeks to ensure accountability and transparency in use and management of government resources. It refers to mechanism where citizen mobilize to evaluate and audit government performance and decisions on policies (Gurung, *et. al.,* 2020). This ensures accountability on the side of public officials. It is pegged on the premise that; public officials are likely to work smarter when there is pressure from the electorate demanding certain issues or quality of work. Social audits also ensure that, public officials will not abuse power because at the end they have to answer to the electorate directly. The social audit as a process relies on the commitment of citizens and readiness to engage directly or indirectly and

demand accountability and transparency in budget cycles and public policy. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) also play a crucial role because in most cases they are organized and run by highly knowledgeable individuals on various policy issues.

According to Gurung, *et. al.* (2020), when social audits are well organized and based on the legal provisions present in a county, it achieves greater success as a mode of public participation. Social audits have the potential to curb corruption incidences hence enhancing efficiency in government spending. With social audits, citizens will demand their right to know what the government has in their plans, how it will be implemented, the expected impact and all this becomes an obligation to account and to be transparent. The problem with social audits is when citizens lack the skills required, tools and the capacity to exercise an effective monitoring and evaluation process on their decision-makers or government.

For social audit to be a success there has to be (Berthin, 2011):

(a) Political will- if the government is not willing to allow citizens or civil societies to monitor and evaluate and finally give feedback on public service activities, they will miss very crucial part of development. Through citizen and civil society feedback, the government gets to know how they are perceived because there is need to develop mutually beneficial relationships.

(b) Enabling Policies/Legislation-There must be a basic legal framework that provides guidance on social audit activities. For example, the right to access government information on development projects and finances. This includes the right to public and civil society participation, by demanding to know, and the right to access public information. Without information, citizen cannot be able to assess the situation or monitor a project.

(c) Skills and Resources-Civil societies are the most suited to carry out social audits mainly because of their capacity to organize. They also possess technical and advocacy skills. The skills include knowledge on legal matters, communication and operational skills which help to mobilize support and resources.

(d) Objectivity and Independence-Citizens or civil societies have to be objective and independent in their work of social auditing. All data collected should be impartial so that they can share their findings with both government and other civil societies. If social audits end up being politically motivated at any stage, then the reports prepared lose credibility. Such reports do not have any impact. Civil societies should also be careful not to hire third party organizations or individuals with vested interests on the projects being monitored to carry audit. It is critical to note that, the independence of civil society institutions depends on their financial stability so that they are not fully funded by the same government they are supposed to monitor. The civil societies should also have safeguards to ensure any funding received from the government will not have adverse effects on their work.

(e) Broad civil society Participation-Social auditing efforts are always successful when they have the broad public involvement. The goal of broad public participation is to enhance understanding among the citizen which intern makes the process credible. Success is guaranteed when there is acceptance from the public.

2.2.7 Citizen Action Groups

Citizen Action Groups (CAG) are self-initiated, non-profit and voluntary groups within a given community with a specific goal or purpose. The groups are unique and significant as a form of social participation with the aim of influencing decision-makers. They are usually meant to push for change or to maintain the existing situation by resisting change (Berner, Amos and Morse, 2011). For example, such groups can demand the construction of a road through a given neighborhood to ease access to amenities. The group can also be resisting the construction of a road through their neighborhood citing security reasons or threats to their investments.

2.2.8 Planning different fora

Forum refers to public deliberation meetings where people come together face-to-face in a discussion aimed at solving a problem. It involves weighing costs and consequences of the decisions made in the context of the views of other people (Bone, Crockett and Hodge, 2006). For public fora to succeed, those planning have the obligation to frame the issues so that they are clear to all participants; convene the process and ensure all stake holders are involved; and ensure that, there are skilled moderators that can manage tensions or conflicts that may arise in the process. Public fora have not however been that final solution to every problem that bedevil development efforts, it has its shortcomings. For example, Burkhalter, Gastil and Kelshaw, (2002), note that, people have left forums disappointed and discouraged in many occasions. In some instances, the citizens who attend the fora consist of polarized groups rendering the efforts futile.

At all times, fora should avoid a scenario of 'us against them' and adopt approaches that encourage participants to take action and start the process of change. There should also be an increased two-way interaction between policy experts and the beneficiaries (Bone, Crockett and Hodge, 2006). The nature of public fora is such that, they build on the existing capacity of the public to think, articulate and act together for a common good. The change achieved is by design a product of the way citizen habitually interacts amongst themselves, in relation to matters of public concern. Public fora are not about winning or losing, rather is about listening to individual experiences, concerns and what they value in regard to issues as well as hard facts. The choices are then made considering values, and divergent views of people.

Other modes of participation can adopt a more aggressive and sometimes violent means. For example, citizens can show dissatisfaction on some of the government activities or officials work by protesting, rioting or boycotting elections.

2.2.9 Protests and Riots

Protests involve activities that may not be conventionally normal, and in fact sometimes unlawful. Protests refer to political actions that are aimed at gaining rewards from a political or economic system. For many years, protests were perceived as activities of the opportunists and irrational groups in the society. This was informed by misconceptions that led to people being silent concerning misdeeds or non-performance on the side of public officials (Innes and Booher, 2000). This has however changed and today protests represent a mode of political participation which is an option for those citizens who believe in personal effectiveness. These groups believe that the government can and must be pushed or hurried into action.

Burkhalter, Gastil and Kelshaw, (2002), note that, studies in the field of socio-political research has led to new knowledge that seem to suggest that protests are efforts by citizen to articulate issues, which in practice are denied. Protest are therefore an expression of deep-seated frustrations and emotions. Protests can take several forms including nonviolent acts where people engage in civil disobedience breaking a law perceived to be unjust (Irimieș, 2017).

On the other hand, riots are spontaneous and usually arise from a particular issue or incident bringing out deep-seated frustrations and emotions (Innes and Booher, 2000). People in a community may resort to rioting when they have exhausted the legally accepted ways of passing information to public officials. In some instances, riots result in looting, destruction of property, injuries and even death.

There are a few identifiable shortcomings in the literature on forms of public participation. For example, despite the fact that the modes have the capacity to yield a lot of helpful information and desirable results, the downside is the slow and sometimes costly processes involved (Irimieș, 2017). The processes involved in public participation have the tendency to slow down decision making. The law however requires that the due process is followed to the latter. Individuals have the right to be served and when those bestowed the duties as government officials fail to act, people have the right to exploit all possible means. Effective public participation is only possible when all the legally permitted means are put in practice while being supervised by strict oversight authorities (Zhang, 2012). But when all seems not to work, other informal and sometimes unlawful modes can help call the government to be accountable. Any breaches by government officials on the steps and procedures

involved in public participation, can end up in protracted conflicts and costly court procedures.

2.3 Levels of Public Participation

Public participation is strongest when citizens act together and make use of their collective voice to influence government policies and decisions that concern them (Uraia Trust & International Republican Institute, 2012). When citizen act in a group, they effectively articulate their concerns and can build consensus on solutions to issues that could not be decided on by individuals in society. The extent of the involvement of the public is dependent on government decisions. This includes readiness to take into account some of the opinions of the public concerning matters that are of concern to them. The level of public participation is a reflection of the level of trust between the public and the government (Zhang, 2012). If the public perceive that their government involves them adequately, they develop higher level of trust in the administration. The more trust the public have in their government, the more legitimacy government achieves, hence decisions will be perceived to be for the common good.

Lederach, (2005), notes that, the lower levels of public participation allow for mass participation but there is very little engagement: for example, the voting activities. On the other hand, high level of participation is characterized by more in-depth and smaller scale participation. According to White, (2011), the different levels of public participation are nominal, instrumental, representative and transformative. She further points that, each of the four forms play different roles in the process of participation. Leaders at different levels, those at the top who are powerful and those at the bottom

who are less powerful perceive the four forms with different interests in each. The four levels explained by White are:

Nominal participation- Powerful actors in the society tend to use this method to gain legitimacy in their development plans. White, (2011) suggest that, when the less powerful people are involved in such development programs, their participation is out of the desire to be included. This level of participation is often for display. No much is expected to come out of the processes involved since it is the public officials who will have the ultimate decision-making powers. For example, Oduori, (2019) explains that, in Kenya, the one-third gender rule has been a great challenge for the government to implement. However, the creation of the position for women representatives may not have solved the problems of women. In fact, having an office that has very little significance in the process of empowering women, only works to solve the problem of inclusion. The position of women in the development planning become nominal and therefore, just for display.

Instrumental participation- According to White (2011), at this level of participation, the public serves as means towards an already determined end. This level, utilize the knowledge and skills from the public efficiently in project implementation. The unique characteristic here is that; the public may not necessarily have a choice. For example, EIPP, (2009) explain that, if the government decides to do a mega project aimed at solving a problem that is facing people in a given locality, the beneficiaries have to contribute in terms of labor. A project like the construction of a dam to solve water problems will require the contribution in terms of working hours and sacrifice from other engagements. Participation here is instrumental and not value in itself. One has to choose between the dam and other engagements.

Representative participation- White (2011), point out that participation at this level allows the public to have a voice in the decision-making process and implementation of various projects and policies. For those who are powerful in society, representative participation gives them more chances to make sustainable interventions. Those who are weak in society may just find an opportunity to leverage: for example, when the government is working to bring together farmers to form cooperatives in order to receive financial assistance. Farmers are encouraged to join the cooperatives so that they have a voice in determining prices of their produce and also access low interest loans. The farmers will also be able to draft the rules or by-laws develop plans for the cooperative. The goal here is to grant the beneficiaries a voice so that the project will be sustainable. A group of farmers can decide to apply for loans for the construction of milk processing plant and subsequent marketing of their products. For such a group, playing an active role in the discussions and meetings with government officials will ensure leverage on the given opportunity. They will be able to have an influence on the shape of the project and also ensure sustainability. The whole process will be seen to be representative because it became the only means people can express their own interests.

Transformative participation-At this level White (2011) explains that participation empowers those involved, and as a result alters or restructures those institutions that created marginalization and exclusion. Here participation becomes empowerment because the public is involved in considering options and making decisions. According to Muriu, (2013), this gives an opportunity to the people to act collectively in fighting injustices which are itself transformative. This level of participation allows the people greater consciousness on what leads to poverty in the society and further creates the confidence and ability to make a difference in their lives.

The works of White (2011), suggest different levels of power of the members of society, their hidden agendas and the dynamic relationships that exist among them. She explains that it is by discussing how the top-bottom and the bottom-up management differ and or complement each-other that we can gain a clear understanding of the politics of participation. For example, Muriu (2013), note that, those at the top or the powerful may keep talking about participation but in the real sense they wish to maintain status quo. It is only at the level of transformative participation that those wielding power work together with the weak to take action and shape decisions.

There are no clearly identifiable gaps in the levels of public participation as explained by White, (2011). They create a good hypothesis on how to view and understand participation in our society. However, the scholar seems to view society as homogeneous. In the real societal context, people are different and will always have diverse interests and expectations in the process of public participation. For example, when low income earners join groups, their hope is that they will gain in terms of access to loans or other benefits at their level. For the high-income earners, participation in cooperatives will be viewed as representative.

Citizen participation also demonstrates citizens' power that is granted by the constitution. For example, Article (1) of the constitution of Kenya (2010) grants this power to all and special recognition to the different categories of citizen who were marginalized in Kenya. The same Article (1) outlines responsibilities, which account for citizen's power. It is through a well-coordinated system of citizen participation process that the public can influence government activities.

Arnstein Sherry (1969) made what many scholars find to be the best attempt to scale the level of participation in policy making processes. In her ladder, public participation is conceived as a process that revolves around power distribution and the roles of individual citizens. Arnstein (1969) in his seminal work argues that, it is only by providing citizens the opportunity to influence outcomes in processes, otherwise participation remains at the level of "therapy" and "manipulation" of participants. According to Arnstein (1969), there are eight stages of citizen participation.

In Arnstains' work, the first and also the lowest category is Non-participation, which is also divided into two, Manipulation and Therapy. At these stages the primary aim is simply to provide education or cure citizens' concerns and anxieties through things like public events. These events are organized for purposes of manipulation of people's thoughts and are meant to cure some concerns, because people will tend to imagine that they are involved in decision making while in the real sense decisions have already been made. This is the reason why these stages are placed under the non-partisan category.
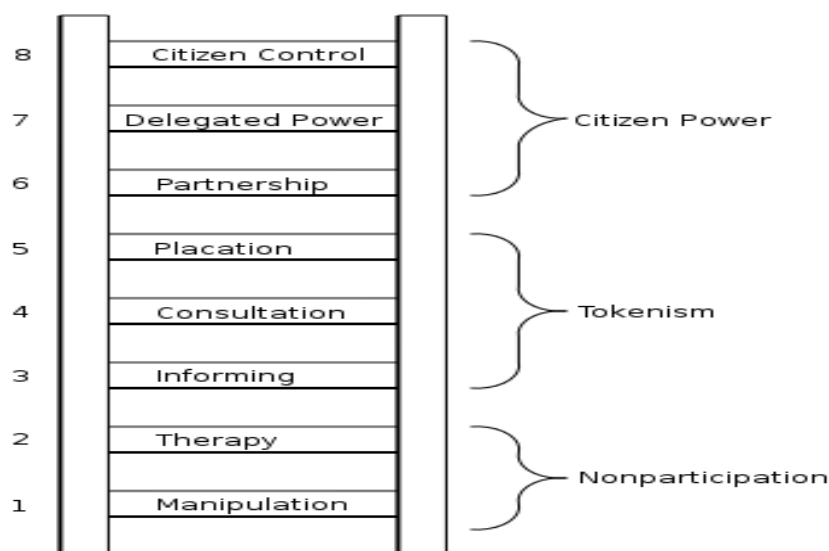
Figure 2.1: Arnstein (1969) "Ladder of Citizen Participation".

Source, Journal of the American Institute of Planners, 35(3)

The second category forms the middle-stage of citizen participation known as Tokenism, there are three stages involved in this category. Lower middle-stage is made of Informing and Consultation stages and at the upper middle-stage is Placation. The aim of those possessing decision-making powers in the first two stages is to explain and listen to the views of the citizens on policies and decisions.

The third and highest category is the citizen participation ladder is Citizen Power. This category also consists of three stages, the partnership, delegated power and citizen control. The lowest among the three is Partnership, and at this stage, citizens have the opportunity to negotiate with those possessing decision-making powers and therefore have a chance in decision-making responsibilities. The other two stages in this category (Delegated power and Citizen Control) mark the highest level of citizen participation.

The ladder of participation is highly essential when trying to understand or even give meaning to the exercise of public participation. And although the categories as provided by Arnstein is by no means a final and true reflection of the society, none the less it serves a great deal in pointing out the perceived levels of public participation as a phenomenon that is drawing strong interest in the wake of an era of strong advocacy for decentralization in governments across the globe and in this case county governments. For example, Connor, (1988) expressed some concerns on the ability of the Arnstain (1969) ladder model to explain levels of participation. He gives some of the reasons like the fact that society does not have power distributed as neatly as in the ladder. He further brings out the obvious issues in the society including the road blocks encountered in such a process from politicians, influential people, diverse ideologies, ethnicity and marginalization among others.

It can further be noted that, at every level in Arnstin's ladder, there is a possibility of being vague. For example, at the level if informing, it is critical to notice that, the type and quality of information matters. Information conveyed is not always aimed at the participation processes. There are also factors that determine the quality of information, including the modes of communication. Therefore, in reality the levels of participation can point to a more complex process not just a series of stapes.

2.3.1 Changes in the levels of participation over time

Berner, Amos and Morse (2011), note that, participation is a process, and therefore the changes that occur over time must be taken into account. Bone, Crockett and Hodge, (2006) observes that, participation is likely to decline over time. This could be out of disillusionment in case people don't get what they want after commitment to participation in a given project. Another reason for decline in participation could be that people have other interests. In some cases, a decline in women participation may be due to heavy domestic responsibilities. This will definitely constrain their time and they may not therefore be willing to be out of home for long hours.

Berner, Amos and Morse (2011) note that, participation is bound to dwindle, especially when new positions are being created over time. He explains that, there is a likelihood of new forms of domination, which end up being nominal participation. Participation can also increase with time. For example, a middle man business person can get people to form a group so that they jointly sell their produce to him. The motivation here will be the loans given by the middle man. The middle man will take the produce sell to a larger business and retain profits to repay the farmers' loans. Over time however and as the farmers gain financial strength, they begin to look for cheaper loans through their cooperative by by-passing the middle-man so that they

retain profit in their own cooperative. With time the farmers gain power and much control over their financial issues as they manage their cooperative. This is transformative participation because it improves their economic position and political rights.

2.3.2 Impact of Public Participation

The impact of citizen participation is not limited to only those who participate in the process. It goes further to affect decision making and developments in the entire communities. The more public participates the more the government and the entire community feel and appreciate their impact. As Cogan and Sharpe, (1986:284) note, the foundation of every democratic system is in the goal of ensuring that citizens have a way of participating in the governance process. Citizens of any country have a civic duty to participate actively in local governments and local community affairs. Muriu (2013) explains that, there is a connection between effective service delivery in local governments and the level of citizen participation. He compares the previous local governments before the new constitution in Kenya and the present county governments and notes the fundamental differences observed. The constitution has allowed the seamless interface between the people and the government.

Public participation empowers citizen and strengthens democracy and hence it is a necessary condition for good governance. Englebert, (2002), states that citizen participation is an important way of strengthening the legitimacy of a government. A critical view of the democratic states worldwide provides that participative democracy is an important aspect, if high levels of legitimacy are to be achieved. For example, from mid-1990's, there has been continual efforts accompanied by major debates on how the public need to directly engage in processes of policy decision making. This

was majorly a response to the crisis facing democracy and the concern on the functional and normative adequacy of democratic institutions and the responsibilities and rights of citizens. Major proponents of the discourse of public participation propagated arguments of a decline in traditional representative democracy. They pointed at a dysfunctional democracy unable to adequately respond to the declining state of public participation in political processes (Gilley, 2009). It is critical however to note that, most scholarly works fail to highlight emerging issues, notably that voting in elections and party membership are slowly losing significance.

There are numerous benefits attached to active participation by citizen in a country. Some of these benefits include, but are not limited to (Cheema and Rondinelli, 2007): The election of public officials who understand better the needs of their communities and therefore can respond in a better way to those needs; public participation also provides for increased credibility of public officials in handling community issues and services. Additionally, public participation creates a citizenship that develops trust in the local government, it provides for the collection of alternative views of diverse people decision-making processes; and helps the community to come up with concerns that are more focused and prioritized for public officials in their local government to address. Also, public participation enables the citizens to get an opportunity to showcase their diverse and unique skill which can then be utilized by the government and the community; this also enhances the capacity of the citizen, so that they are able to contribute to future public debates and decisions impacting on their community.

Marginalized groups in Kenya, usually the youth, women and minority groups, lack a means of getting to influence the government activities or participate in decision

making and allocation of resources. Before the promulgation of the new constitution, they lacked an arena to express ideas and grievances. The marginalized groups are covered under Article (56) of the constitution of Kenya 2010, which provides that, "the state should ensure that there are affirmative action programs designed to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups- (a) participate and are represented in governance and other spheres of life". It further outlines the entitlements to include access to special education, economic and employment opportunities. Public participation is therefore one of the ways that can be used to ensure such categories of people in the society get a means to contribute meaningfully to public debates on local problems and the allocation of resources. The aim Article (56) of the constitution on of Kenya, was to provide for a way that marginalized and minority groups will be incorporated in government activities, policy decisions and services. It is however important to note that literature on public participation overemphasize on the importance of involving the public, without mentioning that, in fact without capacity building and empowerment programs the public may not be able to participate effectively. A citizenry that is void of knowledge on how to go about public participation processes may not be concerned about what is going on in their government.

2.4 Access to Information for Public Participation

Access to information is an important feature of all democracies across the globe. Pidd, (2012) states that, "the public release of performance information is seen internationally as an important lever to improve service quality". Disclosure of government information is justified in the sense that it helps to achieve efficiency in public service, because citizen are the consumers and should be empowered to make informed choices. Besley (2006), explains that accountability that is more visible on

the side of service providers and organizations encourages improvement in quality of work. It is recognized by now that decentralized sub-units, being closer to the people are more accountable and easily accessible to the consumers of their services.

The county government Act, (2012), Part VIII (87), lists specific principles that serve as the basis for citizen participation at the county level. Among other principles (a) provides that, "there should be timely access to data, documents and other information related to policy formation and implementation". At the county level the governors go to various locations attending citizen's fora where citizens air their views on development projects proposed for their regions by their representatives, the Members of County Assembly (MCA's). The governors are directed to ensure public participation as per the provision of County Government Act 2012 (30) (3) (g) which requires governors to promote and ensure facilitation of citizen participation in development of plans and policies and the delivery of services in the county. The community can also elect representatives who can be helping them to articulate their problems in a more precise manner to the government.

Citizens can further attend budget reading so that they get to be informed on what will be going on throughout a financial year. This is made possible through the county government Act 2012, Part XI, (115, 1b), where it provides that the public be made aware and be provided with clear information on all that are considered part of county planning process. That include, "clear strategic environmental assessments; clear environmental impact assessment reports; expected development outcomes; and development options and their cost implications". Also, the public finance management Act section (207), requires that the County Governments establishes structures and put in place the mechanisms and guidelines for citizen participation.

This is practically achieved through the assistance of Sub-County Administrator and the Ward-Administrator, who have obligations to ensure success of public participation as captured in County Government Act 2012 Section 50 (3) (g) and 51 (3) (g).

The Constitution of Kenya (GoK, 2010), supports access of information on public service management by citizens. This is a key ingredient to active and effective citizen participation. Kenya's national and county assemblies are directed by the constitution to perform their roles in an open and transparent way. Article 118 (1) (a) of the constitution of Kenya (2010), specifically directs the national and county assemblies respectively to hold public meetings and function openly to the full view of citizens.

The constitution further provides for participation in Article 201 (1) (a), which states that there should be openness, accountability, and public participation when it comes to public financial matters. In addition to information gathered from official business of the legislatures and public finances, Article 35 of the constitution also stipulates that citizens have the right to access all information that is held by the state or the government officials. Public servants must also be in a position to share on information concerning the performance of their duties with the public. Article 232 (1) (f) states that the values and principles of service delivery to the public include transparency and provision of timely and accurate information.

2.4.1 Accountability in public participation process

Accountability is present where individuals or bodies, in the performance of work, are subject to oversight either internally or externally (Ngulube, 2004). Stivers (1990), notes that, for an administration to be legitimate it has to be accountable to citizens,

from whom the purpose of government is derived. Accountability requires that there be a shared framework for the interpretation of basic values: the framework should be jointly developed by government officials and citizens in real societal situations. The legitimate administrative state is simply one inhabited by active citizens. The nature of some projects however may not allow too much public involvement as this may jeopardize the attainment of the intended goals. For example, when planning security related issues, only representatives from the public can be involved.

According to Cheema, (2007), accountability ensures that all actions and decisions taken by government officers are subject to some form of oversight; a role that allows the public to scrutinize all development procedures and processes being undertaken.

According to O'Brien, Stapenhurst and Johnston, (2008) the concept of accountability involves two distinct stages, answerability and enforcement. They note that, answerability refers to government obligation, those of its agencies, and public officials requiring that they provide information about the decisions and actions they make, and should be able to justify them to the public and those institutions of accountability tasked with providing oversight.

Enforcement on another side is the process where members of the public or specific institutions are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring accountability. The institution can therefore sanction or remedy those defying the rules put in place to govern accountability in execution of government roles.

In Kenya, this task of ensuring that public officials are accountable is undertaken with the help of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. The senators are also expected to oversight the performance of the county government officials, and alert the public on anything that may require their attention. When evaluation of public

officials and bodies is carried out to ascertain their effectiveness, it helps to ensure that they perform their responsibilities with diligence. This gives value to money spent in provision of public services, instills confidence in the government and improves responsiveness to needs of the communities being served.

2.4.2 Transparency

Transparency is explained by Lipchak, (2002), as the idea that information should be free to those who need it with easy accessibility particularly to those who are affected by decisions. When a government embraces transparency, then enough information is provided in easily understood forms. This requires that decisions made and enforced are in a manner in which rules and regulations are strictly followed.

According to Khan, Shah and Nawaz, (2008), "Transparent governance implies an openness of the governance system through clear processes and procedures and easy access to public information for citizens. Access to information on the action and performance of government is critical for the promotion of government accountability". Unless the public knows what rights and services have been provided, how well they have been provided, who the beneficiaries are, and how much they cost, they cannot demand effective performance of their local government. Despite the policies and the independence of the local governments, the central government needs to be able to monitor the performance of local governments.

2.4.3 Challenges of Public Participation

Without the political goodwill and commitment on the side of government officials, public participation does not fully guarantee success in democratic governments. Like any other means of solving problems, there is the positive and the negative side of this process (Oduori, 2019). As much as the government would wish to be seen as

champions of public participation, they also find it difficult to follow all the processes involved to the latter, because of its integral nature. If every single decision making will pass through all stages, it may end up becoming too slow and cannot respond to issues fast enough. There is also a possibility of the process generating poor policies, as a result of disagreements, arising from differing opinions and ideas when decision makers are too many. The government would therefore adopt participation at a partial level as a means to satisfy the public and yet attain the goal of planning through bureaucrats.

Some of the challenges that have to be taken into account include (Bone, Crockett and Hodge, 2006): First, public participation processes can be costly both in terms of time and money. This can easily create the perception that public participation is inefficient.

Secondly, some processes call for highly expertise, specific or technical skills to solve an issue. There is always a challenge on how and to what extent should for instance the public be involved; for example, when experts are to determine where to place 100Kv volt power line, an incinerator or a hazardous waste storage facility.

Thirdly, there have been critics who cast doubts on the ability of the process of public participation to achieve representativeness. For example, the process has been perceived to be disproportional when it involves the wealthy in the society and those who are well educated.

Fourthly, public participation brings together the citizen and public officials, in a cooperation that is likely to encounter culture issues. The way the public handles issues differ from the way public officials have been trained to work. The public officials may not be able to efficiently achieve the level of organization required to

yield effective participatory approaches. Public officials should consider the differences that arise in culture across regions.

Last but not least, many government institutions are not yet ready to allow for public participatory processes. For example, in many government organizations, formal decision-making processes and procedures are lengthy. This may not be in line with the expectations of the many citizens involved. In most cases, whenever an issue involves public participation, the public expect quick turn around on the decisions and results which may not happen.

2.5 Theoretical Frameworks

2.5.1 The Rational Choice Model

This theory borrows the same principles used by economists to analyze people's actions in the marketplace, and then applies them in explaining people's actions in collective decision making. Economists, in explaining people's behavior in the market place assume that people are motivated mainly by self-interest. In the pursuit of the said interests, there are obviously a range of alternatives that require individuals to make decisions. This theory when applied in explaining collective decision making in this study, serves to show that, same self-interests guide the behavior of voters, politicians, lobbyists, or bureaucrats. One of the chief underpinnings of public choice theory is the missing incentive for a voter to monitor government effectively. A rational man will always find enough reasons to pursue the outcomes of such a process like elections or monitoring of government projects. In the process of making choices, it is assumed that, there are subjectively conceived elements leading to constrains and therefore limiting alternatives. In this study, the theory guided in the collection of data aimed at explaining the attitudes, constrains, alternatives, utility and

social outcomes of participation in monitoring governmental activities (Callahan, 2007).

Table 2.1: Showing Theoretical Application

Theory	Postulations	How the Theory Is Used to Explain Results
The Rational Choice Theory	Peoples' behavior is motivated by self-interest. Theory assumes that actors choose alternatives that they believe brings about social outcomes that optimize their preferences under subjectively conceived constrains.	Used in chapters four, five, six and seven. Explains the rational choice of individuals and efficiency of modes of participation in county projects. Used to also explain how sufficient information on development projects will influence individual attitudes and willingness to participate.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

This research study presents a conceptual framework of factors affecting public participation in county government development projects, in Kericho County. The relationship between the independent and the dependent variables is clearly depicted in a diagram. This is presented in *Figure 2.2;* observation reveals that independent variable public participation depends on, modes of public participation, levels of participation or involvement, and accessibility and availability of information to the public, on county development projects. There is however the effect of intervening variable, which is explained by the Rational Choice theory. The effect on the dependent variable, county projects is being examined in relation to the perceived effects of the devolved system.

It is expected therefore that with devolution in place as provided by the constitution and other related Acts of parliament, public participation should be more effective in county government development projects. This conceptual framework will serve as a tool that will guide in answering the research questions, while at the same time, attaining the objectives of the study.

Independent variable (Public participation)   Dependent variable

```
┌─────────────────────────┐         ┌─────────────────────────┐
│ Modes    of    public   │         │ Rational   Choice   in  │
│ participation           │────┐    │ participation           │
└─────────────────────────┘    │    └─────────────────────────┘
                               ▼              │
┌─────────────────────────┐         ┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│ Levels   of    public   │         │ County Development projects      │
│ participation           │─────────▶                                 │
└─────────────────────────┘         └─────────────────────────────────┘
                                          ▲
┌─────────────────────────┐               │
│ Access  to  Information  for │           │
│ participation           │───────────────┘
└─────────────────────────┘
```
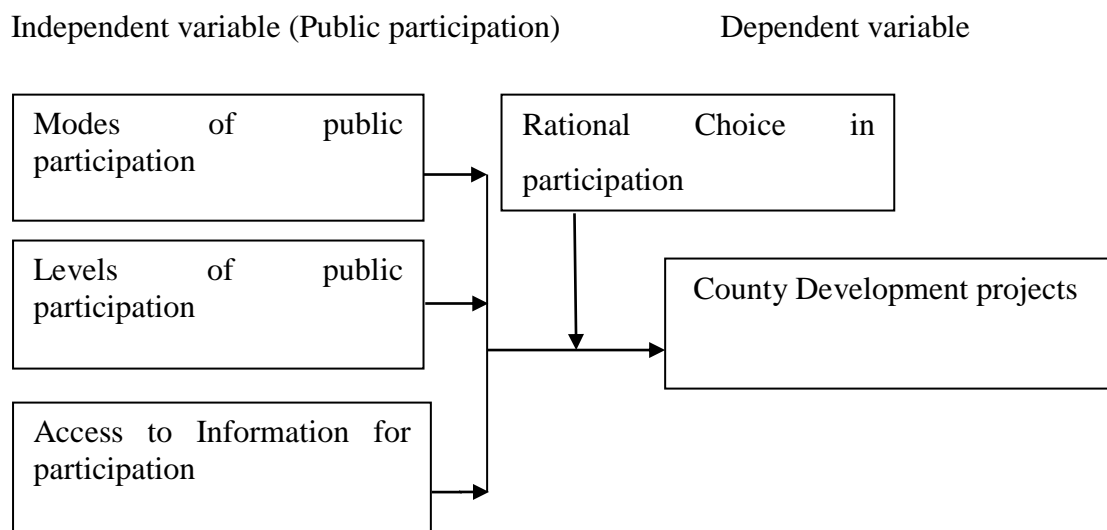
Figure 2.2: Conceptual framework of the relationship between variables in this study

- Modes of public participation include: Attending seminars, election of leaders, attending fora, providing labor in county projects.

- Levels of participation: Planning, choosing projects (prioritizing), execution of projects.

- Access to Information: Internet sources (Facebook, WhatsApp, and other websites), phone calls, documents, short messages service, consultation meetings, brochures, newspaper, magazines, radio communication.

- Participation involved citizens questioning county officials on various projects, supervising projects in their areas so that they raise red flags in areas that need more attention. Checking on the quality of work. Seeking clarity on various issues concerning a project.

- Intervening variables involves finding the rational choice in every stage of participation. This will help to overcome the limitations for the participants. The rational choice will also be seeking to look at alternatives and constrains.

In the next chapter, the researcher explains how this research study was conducted using specific strategies and procedures in line with the objectives of the research. That includes the research design, sampling procedures, research instruments, data collection and analysis.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter begins by introducing the study setting then proceeds to examine the various strategies and procedures that were used in the study. Research methodology refers to the overall plan on how the study will be executed. It also serves to eliminate threats to the eventual research findings and encourage internal validity. They include the research design, sampling procedures, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis, ethical considerations and data presentation.

3.1 Study Area

This study was carried out in Kericho County which is one of the Counties in Kenya created by the constitution of Kenya. The county being one among the 47 counties provided a suitable study area because it has all the characteristics desired to assess the public participation as provided by the constitution of Kenya, 2010. The County is located in the southern part of former Rift Valley Province, Kenya. It covers a total area of $2,617Km^{2,}$ with a total population of 901,777 people (KNBS 2019). The County borders Uasin Gishu County to the North, Baringo County to the North-East, Nandi County to the North-West, Nakuru County to the East, and Bomet County to the South. Major economic activities in the region revolve around Agriculture. Some of the crops that do well in the region includes, maize, potatoes, tomatoes and coffee. People in the region also practice livestock farming. With a high altitude and virtually adequate rainfall, the area is the leading tea-growing zone in the country with a high concentration of tea factories. Many of the industries are local with a few being Multi-nationals, particularly, Unilever Kenya Limited, Williamsons tea, and James Finlay

Limited which deals with Floriculture, other industries present in the region include milk processing sector, coffee at Fort Ternan among others.

In terms of infrastructure, Kericho seems to have a comparatively good transport network with roads being the main mode of transport. There are several institutions of learning of all levels, including two universities, Kenya Highlands University and Kabianga University, several tertiary colleges, high schools and primary schools.
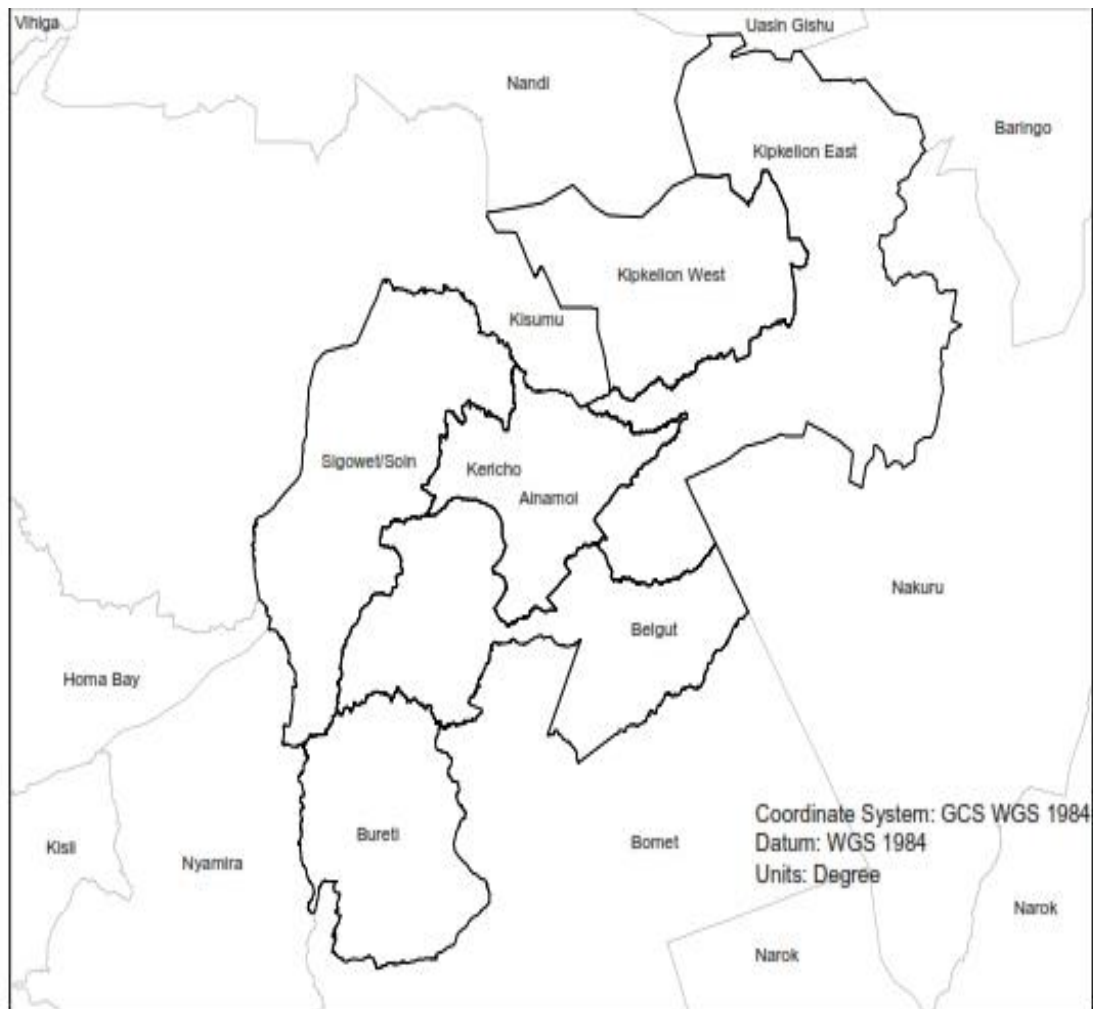
Figure 3.1: Kericho County Map (Cartographic material). Source: GIS, Moi University, (2021).

3.2 Research Design

The study utilized concurrent mixed research design to achieve its objectives. The choice of research design was because, the study aimed at explaining in a more accurate way the state of public participation as it existed at the time of research in Kericho County. The design facilitates a more complete understanding of the research problem because it combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches (Creswell, 2012). The present study employed a questionnaire with both open ended, structured questions and an interview schedule. The focus was to establish the effectiveness of public participation in county government development projects.

The objectives were attained by examining the effect of the independent variable public Participation, in Kericho County on the dependent variable, public monitoring of county projects. The factors that were identified as having an influence on the independent variable are modes of public participation, levels of participation and access to information by the electorate. A concurrent mixed research design was therefore used in assessing the status of the population in respect to the variables in the study.

3.3 Target Population

The target population comprised all people of Kericho County that are above the age of 18 years who are approximately 375, 668 (IEBC register 2017). This population is made up of all those who are eligible to participate in decision making in Kenya, and are therefore decision makers in Kericho County. The researcher noted that a complete enumeration of the subjects in this research was not possible. It is almost practically impossible for an individual researcher to enumerate all the members of the population big as that of a whole county. Even the government finds it tedious and

is why such enumerations involving survey of total populations, are rarely done like the ones of censors that takes place once in every ten years in Kenya. It is an extensive study area and therefore secondary data from records analysis and census reports obtained from the government served a great deal to provide the figures of the total subjects in this research and provide more information about the area of study. (Kothari, 2004).

The universe comprised of approximately 375, 668 (IEBC register 2017). This research is particularly empirical and therefore considering the time and costs involved, the researcher required the selection of a few respondents. This included 250 respondents for questionnaires and 10 interview schedule respondents. The respondents selected were to be as representative of the total population as possible, in order to give a miniature cross-section. (Kothari, 2004). The distribution of development projects, including schools, colleges, urban centers, roads, health centers, hospitals and industries across the region were considered in order to account for any variation in the population that could have caused any significant effects and in turn affect the validity of data collected. The heterogeneity of the population was assessed based on the above factors and including demographic factors such as level of income, gender and social class, level of education, geographic location and general professional occupations of respondents. The selected respondents therefore made up the sample for this research study.

3.4 Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

3.4.1 Sampling procedures

This research being largely a survey on people living in Kericho County, the area is extensive and heterogeneous in terms of characteristics of the population. When selecting a sampling procedure or design, it is critical that the researcher ensure that

the choice being made should end up in one with relatively small sampling error (Creswell, 2012). It should also be able to control the systematic bias. Purposive sampling was used together with cluster sampling in order to get groups that are more homogenous for study (Kothari, 2004). The choice of this mixed sampling technique was arrived at by considering that this study covered an extensive area and the researcher based on his understanding of the region chose four sub-counties in a random manner. The sub-counties were further stratified into clusters represented by ward boundaries. Therefore, the method served to provide more precise estimates for each Ward that make for a cluster in this study. By employing cluster sampling, the researcher arrives at results that are more reliable and with detailed information.

The data was collected in four sub-counties namely Kipkelion-East, Kipkelion-West, Soin-Sigowet and Kericho East (Ainamoi). The population in the four sub-counties is representative of all the characteristics experienced across the entire Kericho County and therefore forms a good sampling unit. A list of all Wards in the four sub-counties chosen for data collection was obtained from the county offices. Then the researcher chose randomly where to collect data. A Ward is the smallest unit of authority recognized by the constitution and which is represented by an elected leader known as the Member of County Assembly (MCA). Those elected at this level form the county assembly from where, legislations on county development plans take place.

3.4.2 Sample size

The decision on the sample size for this research was made with knowledge based on the national government population statistics on the county. This was after the researcher used the secondary sources to obtain information on the population characteristics. Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill, (2009), explained that generalizations

about populations from data collected using any probability samples are based on statistical probability. According to the three scholars, the larger the sample size, the lower the likely error in making a generalization to the population. On the other hand, it is considered that probability sampling is a compromise between the accuracy of findings and the time to be used in collecting data, money used in data collection, checking and analyzing.

To be in control of circumstances that could affect the reliability of data, the desired sample size was determined using the formula of Fisher *et al* (1991). The suitability of Fisher *et al* formula is based on the advantage it gives for infinite populations. In this research, target population comprises those above 18 years of age in Kericho County. One cannot easily determine the exact figure, since no statistics per county has been done so far on these criteria of the age category 18 years and above only. Fisher *et al* gave a formula for calculating samples in population above 10,000 particularly when it is infinite.

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where-:

n – Is the desired sample size (assuming the population is greater than 10, 000). For this study, population is approximately 901,777(KNBS, 2019)

z - The standard normal deviation, set at 1.96, which corresponds to 95% confidence level

p - The proportion in the target population estimated to have a particular characteristic. If there is no reasonable estimate, then use 50 percent. For this study those above 18 years are approximately 375, 668 (IEBC register 2017) (the study therefore used 0.58).

q = 1.0 – p (For this study 1.0-0.58)

d = The degree of accuracy desired, here set at 0.05 corresponding to the 1.96.

In substitution, n= $\dfrac{1.96^2 \ \text{x} \ 0.58 \ \text{x} \ (1-0.58)}{0.05^2}$ = 381.9648 (rounded off to 382)

Yamane (1967) provided a simple formula for calculating sample size. The disadvantage with using the formula in this research study was that one cannot tell the exact target population (the people that are 18 years and above), and therefore can almost be considered infinite. The formula required that the exact N (target population) be known in order to calculate n (Sample size). In Yamane Taro's formula, at a 95% confidence level and ±5% precision, for populations more than a 100,000, he recommended 400 individuals as the desired sample.

For this research therefore the researcher decided to use 250 respondents in order to reduce the effect of non-responses on the suitability of the sample. Data collection was done in only four sub-counties out of the total six, which was slightly more than half the county.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

This study made use of questionnaires with both closed-ended and open-ended questions and interview schedules, to obtain the primary data. Secondary data was obtained by analyzing documents and records on various activities related to public participation.

3.5.1 Questionnaire with open ended and closed-ended questions

Questionnaires are the most appropriate for collection of primary data in big studies (Kothari, 2004). Questionnaires are usually two types, structured and unstructured questionnaires. This study employed the use of questionnaires with both structured and unstructured questions. There were definite, concrete and pre-determined questions to be answered by interviewees but some questions were open ended. The presentation of the questions was exactly in the same wording and in the same order

to all respondents. The standardization in structured questionnaires help to ensure that all respondents reply to the same set of questions.

The suitability of this instrument is the provision it has, that allows the researcher to focus response to the objectives of study, and thus data collected is within the study requirements. It also allows for collection of data in extensive inquiries, by overcoming several limitations like geographical, biasness or interference by researcher on respondent's answers. The disadvantage in the use of this instrument is majorly the fact that the response rate is usually low. To ensure it is effective, proper preparation was made to include a letter requesting the respondent to assist in filling the questionnaire. The latter also explained the purpose of the inquiry, possible expected date of return of filled questionnaires, and assured confidentiality in use of the information, that is presumed to reveal any secrets that can potentially be used for any other purpose.

3.5.2 Interview schedules

This method of data collection is more less the same as questionnaires, but with little difference in that schedules are filled by enumerators who are selected and trained for the data collection exercise. The researcher or enumerators read the questions to the respondents then fill answers in the spaces provided in the schedule. The schedule provides the questions in a systematic order. The researcher took the responsibility of explaining the aims and objectives of the study and also helped to eliminate difficulties that may have been experienced, by providing an understanding of certain concepts or the implication of certain questions on the study.

This instrument was appropriate for collection of primary data in this study. Being an extensive inquiry, interview schedules can lead to more reliable results, because the

questions limit the type of response to follow a given order. In this study, this instrument was used particularly for team leaders in public participation activities and some of the opinion leaders in the region.

3.5.3 Document Analysis

This was helpful in obtaining secondary data that was not in the capacity of the researcher to collect. For example, census reports provided estimates that guided when considering demographic factors, which was helpful in elimination of biases. This research on public participation is not new therefore, there were other researches carried out in the area of study that provide suitable reference materials to provide more information. For example, those studies that viewed Constituency Development Fund (CDF) as an attempt to decentralize planning and involve the public in development. Critical examination of government printed reports, scholarly journals, and theses among other materials available online was of great importance.

3.6 Pre-testing for Validity and Reliability

Validity is defined by Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), as the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences based on research results. On the other hand, Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill, (2009), gave the definition of reliability as a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results after repeated trials. In respect to this understanding, the researcher developed a mixed questionnaire with questions on an ordinal scale of 2 to 5 choices, while others were open ended. Before it was tested, the questionnaire was interrogated for content and comprehensiveness by research experts in the department of History, Political Science and Public Administration of Moi University. The next step involved the selection of two small samples of 20 systematically collected from different areas five days apart. The

results were then subjected to a strict review to check for any variations in the data captured, any omissions and typographical errors.

3.7 Sampling, Data Collection and Data Analysis

3.7.1 Sampling procedures

Sampling procedure for the present study employed multi-stage sampling. That involved taking the sub-counties as clusters. The researcher therefore wrote the names of the sub-counties on small piece of paper and the use random sampling to peak four. This involved peaking one peace each time, recording and returning it in the container to ensure all the sub-counties had an equal chance of being included in the sample.

The researcher further used the existing sub-county boundaries to sub-divide the chosen counties into wards as provided in the constitution. The names were written on small papers and placed in a box. They were then shaken and out of the 18 Wards only 12 were peaked. The researcher therefore was clear about where to go and how many people to interview in each of the wards. At least 20 people were interviewed in each of the Wards.

The researcher then selected the participants purposively in order to ensure they meet the requirements of the study. For instance, the participants were supposed to be 18 years and above. They had to be residents of Kericho County, because they will be interested in the development projects in the area.

3.7.2 Data collection procedures

After ensuring that the research instruments were valid and reliable for the data collection process, a letter was obtained from the school of arts and social sciences, indicating the purpose of doing the research and granting such permission as necessary. This facilitated the process of obtaining a permit from the Ministry of

Higher Education Science and Technology. Other permission was sought at the respective Ward Administrators offices in charge of the various regions where data was collected. The researcher then arranged dates to administer questionnaires at various points in study area.

3.7.3 Data analysis

The treatment and analysis of data in this research was done while considering the research questions that were to be answered. Research questions also determined the structure of the instrument used in data collection. The level of data collected was of significant in determining how the data was analyzed, for example, whether they fall in ordinal, nominal or interval levels. This research employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches. After receiving responses for the instruments used and putting them together, they were inspected for reliability and validity. The data was entered in excel sheets in readiness for analysis. Depending on the research questions, descriptive statistics like frequency counts and percentages were used. The researcher utilized the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS V.20) program to run descriptive statistics. The same was then presented in tables according to the research requirements. Furthermore, qualitative data generated from the interviews were categorized in themes according to the research objectives and the same reported in narrative form along with quantitative presentation. Qualitative data was used to reinforce quantitative data.

3.8 Limitations of the Study

Being a case study with an extensive research setting, it could have been difficult for the researcher to cover the whole region and collect reliable data. This was however a necessary condition to ensure proper representation from the population. The

researcher therefore made prior arrangements to ensure the execution procedures were such that the data collected is reliable. To ensure the data was properly collected, the research set a timeline for each activity. This was important since the researcher was able to follow a well-designed plan that allowed proper coverage of the research setting. The plan included a contingency budget to facilitate ease of movement within the study area. The proper preparations went a long way to ensure efficiency in collection of data for the study which guaranteed internal validity in the research process.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Clearance to carry out the research was sought from Moi University. In addition, there was an informed consent to all participants. They were assured that information collected was to be used for the purpose of academic research only. Respondents with special needs received immediate assistance from the researcher, as it may have been deemed necessary for them to participate in the research. All information was therefore sought while preserving the confidentiality of the respondents to ensure their contributions are only beneficial to the research needs.

The next chapter is focused at explaining the demographics and other general information in the study. The information provided in the next chapter is deemed critical to this study because they form the basis for analysis and explanations in the subsequent chapters in the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

MODES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research findings, data interpretation and discussion on the modes of public participation. This study focused on assessing the modes of participation used by the public to participate in county development projects. The findings are presented, based on the study question.

4.2 Effectiveness of Each Mode of Participation

The researcher sought to find out from the participants, which mode of participation they think is the most effective. This was also supposed to help the researcher cross check the responses on participation of individual respondents through the various modes, vis-a-vis opinions on effectiveness of each mode. The options provided therefore included, attending budget reading, scrutinizing records, participation in demonstration, attending fora and the rest were presented as others.

Table 4.1: Effectiveness of modes of participation

Effective participation mode	N (%)
Attending budget reading	27(11.6)
Scrutinizing records	40(17.2)
Participation in demonstration	56(24.0)
Attending fora	74(31.8)
Others	36(15.5)

4.2.1 Attending public fora on issues of development projects

The results from data collected suggest that attending fora is the most effective mode of participation. This is evident from the high number of participants 74(31.8%), who indicated fora as the most effective mode of participation. Forum is a public

deliberation meeting where people come together face-to-face in a discussion aimed at solving a problem (Bone, Crockett and Hodge, 2006). Forum in the case of this study is a meeting between officials from the county government and members of the public. Fora are usually organized by the office of the governor with the help of sub-county administrators and the member of county assembly to address issues of development, solve problems and seek the contributions of the public in terms of ideas.

The results on effectiveness served to confirm fora as a popular mode. For instance, participants responded to a question on whether they have attended any forum aimed at public participation. 56(24%) participants agreed and a further 19(8.2%) strongly agreed hence a cumulative 75(32.2%) have attended at least a forum in the past.

Table 4.2: Participation in public forum

Mode of participation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Attend fora where the governor or other county executives are addressing issues of development around our area.	72(30.9)	53(22.7)	29(12.4)	56(24.0)	19(8.2)

The results suggest that, the county government of Kericho has done little to promote fora as a means of public participation leading to the low participation. Otherwise the public feels that it is effective. The researcher was keen to find out the reasons for those who don't attend forum on development. For instance, there were 72(30.9%) participants, who strongly disagree with the opinion that they usually attend fora and another 53(22.7%), just disagree. Cumulatively a total of 125(53.6%) have never attended a forum in the past. Also, there are 29(12.4%) participants, who neither agree

nor disagree to have participated in a forum. Those who disagree on their attendance gave reasons. The researcher thought they may be of help when planning future engagement using public fora. This would help to ensure better attendance that will translate to higher efficiency.

There may be many reasons as to why people are reluctant to attend public fora, but the researcher was able to find some in the interview schedules. For example, on fora, interview respondent 1, indicated that "They are not effective since not everybody is invited and such workshops are giving a fake pretense of public view". This response confirmed what Burkhalter, Gastil and Kelshaw, (2002), explained, that people have left forums disappointed and discouraged in many occasions. This helps to anticipate and correct for underserved resentment and mistrust of planners and the unintentionally counterproductive technical planning practice.

Concerning workshops, one interview respondent 3, indicated that, "They are only held in halls far from us". This raised the issue of proximity to the targeted people, which should be a concern for the county. Another respondent 4 explained on *Baraza's* claiming that "The *baraza's* are very dormant". This could mean Barazas do not provide the expected results. The other responses included those on attendance of public fora, where respondent 7 pointed out that "Not all people can manage to attend them". There was also a response from interview respondent 9, pointing out at the lack of awareness "Lack of awareness or knowledge on such forums". It was expected that many people have information on county communications, but the above responses suggest otherwise. For instance, interview respondent 10, also explained that "I haven't been invited to one or gotten any information related to forum or meetings".

The results from the above interviews show that, use of forum as a mode of public participation is popular though not as expected. A comparison of those who at least agree to have attended a forum in the past 75(32.2%) and those who think fora as a form of participation is effective 74(31.8%) reveal a slight difference in participation. The low attendance, which again reflects in those who think the mode is effective explain why Bone, Crockett and Hodge, (2006) noted that, for public fora to succeed, those planning have the obligation to frame the issues so that they are clear to all participants; convene the process and ensure all stake holders are involved.

4.2.2 Participation in demonstrations

Participation in demonstrations is the second most effective mode of participation at 56(24.0%) according to the results of the data collected. The researcher again compared the results with that of a question on whether individual respondents in this study have ever been involved in demonstrations to protest negative developments in government projects and plans.

Table 4.3: Participation in demonstration

Mode of participation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Participate in demonstration to protest against specific county government plans and projects	82(35.2)	65(27.9)	42(18.0)	26(11.2)	15(6.4)

The results indicate that 26(11.2%) strongly agreed to have taken part in demonstrations and another 15(6.4%) strongly agreed to have participated. The number of participants in this study who have been part of a demonstration are cumulatively 41(17.6%).

Those who think demonstration is an effective mode of participation in government projects are more than those who have taken part in such demonstrations. The results from the data collected indicate that, 82(35.2%) participants in the sampled population strongly disagree on their participation in demonstrations, and another 65(27.9%) also indicated that they disagree. Cumulatively those who have never been part of a demonstration are 147(63.1%). There are 42(18%) participants who neither agree nor disagree. The results both that disagree and those who neither agree nor disagree form a significant part of the participants in this research study. This can be interpreted to mean the members of public are not sure if this is the right way to solve grievances. This can be understood from the perspective of the Rational Choice Theorist, so that in this study, participation comes at a cost. An individual's choice to participate in demonstration is subjective to constrains and social outcomes. For instance, if demonstrations could receive social approval, then it could increase the psychological benefits of participation. However, based on the understanding of demonstration available out there, it could become a constraint, hence removing it as an alternative for certain groups in the population. For example, people may have perceived demonstrations to be a method used by idlers and bad people in the society.

 The difference in participation can be attributed to the nature of activities involved in demonstrations that does not favor the old, physically challenged persons and those who fear violent activities. Some of the so-called peaceful demonstration has ended up in many occasions violent and with casualties. Also, most demonstrations take place in the urban areas because they are meant to capture the attention of the senior government officials and the media. Based on Innes and Booher, (2000) explanation, it is possible that there are misconceptions that have led to people being silent and tongue-tied concerning misdeeds or non-performance on the side of public officials.

Another way to understand this is that, there have never been any demonstrations in their area or on any development issue concerning them. Demonstrations are a rare phenomenon in rural areas of the country. Most demonstrations take place in the urban. They may have insignificant impact if held in the rural. This explains the discrepancy in attendance but never the less in many occasions the method is efficient and the results are almost guaranteed.

4.2.3 Scrutinizing records to seek information on projects

Scrutinizing records came third in efficiency with the support of 40(17.2%) of the participants in this study. Scrutinizing records involves going through the county documents to check them against what one knows or expects. Records scrutinizing is a process of finding out information which may not be readily available to the public but is accessible through the county offices or the county website.

Scrutinizing records may not be effective across the population in this study because of the technicality in understanding such records as can be found in the county government. Applying the rational choice theory therefore, scrutinizing records is not a possible alternative for participation for all members of the population. Inability to meet the cost of participation in this mode automatically creates a limitation on the use of the mode. In that sense, it requires one to be trained or to be an expert in a given field or even more to receive an explanation. In another question when the respondents were asked whether they have participated in scrutinizing records, 32(13.7%) did affirm their participation in such an exercise. There are a further 13(5.6%) who strongly agree to have participated in scrutinizing county records on development bring the total of those who have participated to 45(19.3%).

Table 4.4: Participation in scrutinizing records

Mode of participation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Participate in scrutinizing records to seek for information about a particular project	91(39.1)	70(30.0)	21(9.0)	32(13.7)	13(5.6)

The results confirm that indeed the mode of participation ranks third most effective. The differences in numbers for those who have participated 45(19.3%) and those who think it is the third most effective 40(17.2%) can be explained. Not all those who participated, think the exercise provided them the information they needed and therefore only 40(17.2%) found value in the exercise. This is acceptable since, not all that are literate can understand county government records. As Kauzya (2007) explained, scrutinizing written documents by members of public is for the purpose of judging the accuracy of information provided. The researcher notes that, some records are complex to understand and unless one gets the required assistance, the records can be of little significance. Level of understanding differ and may very well be the reason others thought the method is not effective in providing the much-desired information about a given project.

Another possible reason is that access to such records may have financial implications. Some records may need one to buy copies from cybercafé, for example tender documents. Some require internet access which also needs one to pay for. One respondent explained that, scrutinizing records can be the best but there is no motivation to spend in such a course. For instance, on print media, the respondent indicated that, they are "Not effective because not all people can manage to afford them".

4.2.4 Participation in budget reading at the County headquarters

Attending budget reading seem not to be a popular mode with only 27(11.6%) of the participants in the study indicating that it is effective.

Table 4.5: Participation in budget reading at the County headquarters

Mode of participation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Regularly attend budget reading at the county headquarters	119(51.1)	60(25.8)	28(12.0)	20(8.6)	3(1.3)

When the results were checked against those of participation in attending budget reading, 20(8.6%), participants agreed with the opinion that they regularly attended budget reading and another 3(1.3%) strongly agreed. There were a total of 23(9.9%) participants in the study who attend budget reading.

There is a small difference between those who think attending budget reading is effective as a mode of participation in government projects and those who actually attend. More think it is effective than those who attend the budget reading sessions. This can be interpreted to mean, the method is effective, but because of the difficulty in understanding budget issues people opt for much easier modes of participation. Budget reading takes place at the county headquarters annually at the start of government financial year. At the budget reading forum, a breakdown of all county activities and allocations to various ministries are unveiled to the public. The process is aimed at promoting transparency on the use of public funds by the county government. The public is then able to demand accountability and monitor the projects to ensure prudent use of county government resources for public good. The rational choice is based on the level of education of individuals and understanding of

financial records which allows them to participate effectively and demand what is due for their government expenditure.

The fact that budget reading takes place at the county headquarters can cause inconveniences to people living in far places hence a higher cost of participation. Utilizing the Rational choice theory, individuals are likely to attend or ignore such budget reading functions depending on how much it costs or the benefits they draw from the process. For example, some of the rural dwellers could be willing to participate but due to proximity to the county headquarters they are not able to attend.

For instance, results on the attendance of budget reading showed that, 119(51.1%) participants in the study strongly disagreed that they regularly attended budget reading at the county headquarters. Another 60(25.8%) disagree with the opinion that they regularly attend budget reading at the county headquarters. Cumulatively, 179(76.9%) disagree on the opinion of having ever attended budget reading. These results suggest that, attendance of budget reading in not a popular mode of participation among the residents of Kericho County. Those who indicated that they neither agree nor disagree with the opinion could simply mean they are not able to determine the relevance of such an exercise. This could also be attributed to the fact that; county budget reading is not well popularized as a mode of participation and therefore people think their attendance is of little significance.

The respondents for instance were asked a question on whether they could tell the budget allocation for road projects in their area. The results from the data were tabulated as follows:

Table 4.6: Knowledge on budget allocation for road projects

		N	%
Awareness of budget allocation for roads projects	Yes	33	(14.2)
	No	189	(81.1)

Those who know the budget allocation for road projects in their area are 33(14.2%). A significant number 189(81.1%) don't have any idea on the amount of allocations for road projects in their area. There was an open-ended question that sought explanation on why the participants could not tell allocations for the particular roads around their area. Some of the narratives from the survey question include:

"Because they are done by few individuals" (Survey respondent 17)

"Haven't come across the county budget to check on that" (Survey respondent 28)

"I know there is amount set aside for road project but I don't know the amount" (Survey respondent 29)

"The county government is not transparent enough" (Survey respondent 32)

"I have never had time to attend" (Survey respondent 58)

"Have no information on budget allocation for roads because there is no access to the allocation source or information source" (Survey respondent 61)

"No source of information about the budget allocation for roads" (Survey respondent 63)

"Budget proposals are never made public" (Survey respondent 64)

"Most of the budgets are read in the assembly only and not brought to the people to make or to allow them to know" (Survey respondent 70)

"Because I have not attended a budget reading forum by the county government" (Survey respondent 104)

"Expenditure not discussed. No accountability" (Survey respondent 148)

"We mostly see contractors come and work without our knowledge"
(Survey respondent 167)

"No information reaches me" (Survey respondent 229)

"I have no information concerning budget allocation for roads projects" (Survey respondent 232)

From the above responses, the researcher found out that, many people do not have information about county allocation on roads. There are different reasons that can explain that. For instance, some of the respondent site accessibility to such information as the main challenge. That information is however public and should be easily accessible for all the residents of Kericho County. Some of the responses also point out at the inefficiency of the county officials in communicating information concerning county developments. For instance, instead of reading the budget at the county headquarters, the budget unveiling process can be further delocalized to the sub-county level. That will promote participation on the side of the public and help avoid invalid claims of corruption on the side of public officials. An informed population, is an empowered population, and that can ensure effective public monitoring of county projects.

A keen analysis of the qualitative responses from all the participants reveal among other possible reasons that, proximity of the county headquarters from where most people live is likely to affect attendance. There is limited information reaching the public either intentionally or because of some barriers. Other reasons may include, the fact that most of the information released during such forums are technical and may not be presented in simple language. There is no motivation for individuals with limited knowledge in financial matters unless the county works to ensure information is presented in the simplest manner possible. All these reasons border on the efficacy of budget reading as a mode of public participation.

4.2.5 Other modes of participation listed by survey respondents

When given the option to list any other modes of participation that participants think could be more efficient if used, they listed a number. They include election of representatives in projects, seminars, partnerships, workshops, signed petitions and elected leaders (Members of County Assembly). The researcher picked on a few that had additional data from other questions in the study, to check on the reliability of the results. Those picked include, election of representatives in county projects, seminars, providing labor in county government projects and workshops. Overall, the results indicate that, other modes had 36(16.5%) efficiency. The results on the question on individual respondents' participation in the modes listed are tabulated as follows:

Table 4.1: Other modes of participation

Modes of participation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Participated in providing labor in county government projects	93(39.9)	69(29.6)	18(7.7)	38(16.3)	12(5.2)
Participated in election of leaders to serve in particular projects funded by the county government.	75(32.2	37(15.9)	14(6.0)	65(27.9)	41(17.6)
Attended seminars/workshops that provide education on participation in county government plans and projects	79(33.9)	65(27.9)	23(9.9)	44(18.9)	21(9.0)

(a) Providing labor in county projects

Providing labor in development projects is a means of public participation. 38(16.3%) participants indicated that they have participated by providing labor in county development projects. Another 12(5.2%), strongly agree that they have participated in

providing labor in county government development projects. Cumulatively those who have provided labor in government projects in the past are 50(21.5%).

On another hand, 93(39.9%) of the participants in this study strongly disagree on having provided labor in any county development project. Another 69(29.6%) indicated that they disagree with the opinion, hence a cumulative 162(69.5%) do not agree with the opinion on having provided labor. The researcher was keen to understand why so many of the respondents have not rendered their service in development projects. This necessitated finding out information of the distribution of county projects with the help of interview schedule. For example, the researcher carried out an analysis of the interview schedule responses using the theme "development projects". On roads, respondent number 1, explained that, "nothing currently but previously road construction". Another one, respondent 5, pointed out that, "not aware of any". The responses, signify presence of few or no development projects within some areas.

Although one can argue that usually those who work in public development projects are employed on wages or salary, it is important to note that government recommends that, they be sourced from the area of the project. That is to ensure the locals benefit and at the same time own the project. Only technical or skilled labor that cannot be found in the particular area of the project can be sourced from outside. In areas where contractors have been perceived to outsource labor especially those available locally, it has elicited negative reactions both from the public and local leadership. For example, road projects contracts from the county government of Kericho are expected to source manpower locally so as to open opportunities for the people around the area where the project is being implemented.

(b) Participation through elections of project leaders

In this study, the researcher sought to find out participants' opinion on the election of leaders in projects funded by the county government. The efficacy of an electoral process is dependent on properly structured electoral system and the independence of such bodies. In Kenya elections are a characteristic of our governance structure. Leaders both at the national and county government ascend to power through a popular vote in elections. The same is replicated in the elections taking place to the lowest level, including in development projects.

Results suggest that, elections may have been used by many participants. For instance, 65(27.9%) participants agree that they have participated in election of leaders for particular projects and another 41(17.6%) strongly agree. Cumulatively those that agree that they have participated in election of leaders for particular county projects are 106(45.5%). The difference between those who agree and those who don't is smaller for this opinion meaning that, such elections are there. It is however not clear as to why people do not take part so that close to half the population participates while the rest do not take part.

The results show that, 75(32.2%) participants strongly disagree to have participated in any election in county projects. Another 37(15.9%) disagree with the opinion that they have participated in the election of leaders in county projects. Cumulatively those who disagree to the given opinion are 112(48.1%). There are 14(6%) who neither agree nor disagree on their participation in such elections as for particular project leaders. This high number of residents who don't participate in elections support Aklilu, Belete and Moyo, (2014), explanation that elections are less effective as an accountability mechanism. Another thing about elections is that they cannot be

of use in transforming a regime that tolerates poor performance. Elections do not also provide for a means to give feedback. This confirms the postulations of the Rational Choice Theory that self-interest motivates individuals to participate only if it is rational. In this case if casting an informed vote does not guarantee maximum benefits then the process is not worth the cost.

(c) Participation in seminars and workshops

Seminars and workshops are meetings between trainers and participants in a given area. Both seminars and workshops are aimed at dissemination of knowledge in order to achieve a desired level of understanding. 44(18.9%) agree to have attended a seminar on public participation, and another 21(9%) strongly agree with the opinion. Cumulatively, those who agree to have attended at least a seminar or workshop in the past are 65(27.9%). This number is relatively small and may serve to point reasons as to why it is perceived to have low efficiency levels.

On another hand, 79(33.9%) participants strongly disagree to have participated in any seminars that provided education on public participation rights. 65(27.9%) participants disagree with the given opinion. Cumulatively, those who disagree with this opinion are 144(61.8%) meaning they have never attended a seminar on public participation. There are some 23(9.9%) participants who neither agree nor disagree with the opinion.

Based on these results, those who disagree to have participated in any seminar in the past are 144(61.8%) compared to only 65(27.9%) who agreed to the opinion that they have attended a seminar in the past. This means seminars may not be popularly used as a mode of public participation in Kericho County. The other way to understand this is that, the seminars may be there, but due to the vast nature of the county, they are

organized only in a few areas. It is also possible that people are not able to differentiate seminars from the other modes of participation like the "meet the people tour" by the governor and county officials.

To eliminate any doubt on whether participants had difficulty differentiating seminars from other forms of participation, the researcher chose to compare results for this question and other results from a question that came earlier in the survey questionnaire.

Have you attended any training, seminar or meeting organized by the county government to teach on the importance of public participation?

Table 4.8: Attendance of training, seminar or meeting on public participation

	Yes (%)	No (%)
Attended training, seminar or meeting organized by county government	71(30.5)	162(69.5)

The researcher had sought to find out if the participants had attended trainings, seminars or meetings organized by the county government officials in the past to teach on the importance of public participation. The results indicate that 71(30.5%) of the participants in the study had attended at least a training, seminar, or meeting. However, as many as 162(69.5%) have never attended anything organized by the county government on public participation. The question was answered by all the participants confirming that it was clearly understood and the answers provided therefore depicted the true situation on public participation efforts in Kericho County. The comparison was helpful in understanding the previous results on attendance of a seminar. For example, those who have attended at least a seminar increased from 65(27.9%) previously before broadening the options to 71(30.5%) for training,

seminar, or meeting. Those who have never attended any increased from 144(61.8%) previously before broadening the options to 162(69.5%).

Strikingly the 23(9.9%) participants who neither agreed nor disagreed with the opinion that they have attended a seminar got to be sure and indicated either **Yes** or **No**. This means the doubts had been removed and could easily tell whether they have attended training, seminar, or meeting so long as it was teaching on public participation.

The research sought out to identify the reasons for those who indicated that they had never attended anything to do with public participation trainings. Except for a few who cited their absence from the county or work-related reasons, many did explain that they have never heard of such a meeting, seminar or forum aimed at training on public participation. From the results, it is evident the constitution of Kenya (CoK, 2010), where it supports access of information on public service management by citizens has not been fully implemented. This is a key ingredient to active and effective citizen participation. Kenya's national and county assemblies are directed by the constitution to perform their roles in an open and transparent way. Article 118 (1) (a) specifically directs the national and county assemblies respectively to hold public meetings and function openly to the full view of citizens.

The results also served to prove that maybe the governor of Kericho County has not implemented the provision of the county government Act (2012) which was meant to solve problems of public participation. The governors are directed to ensure public participation as per the provision of County Government Act 2012 (30) (3) (g) which requires governors to promote and ensure facilitation of citizen participation in development of plans and policies and the delivery of services in the county.

For example, one interview respondent 1, explained that "The County of Kericho has done less than expected since there are no projects and good communication on what or which projects county will do". Another respondent 3, explained that "Public participation may be done but the views given during participation ends up being disregarded by the executive or enablers". The above explanations give a sense of apathy, people expect more but are receive too little or none. There was also another one interview respondent 7 who explained that "Poor means of informing the public on participation make hard to understand"

Other participants who took part in the survey gave the following narratives;

"The county government does selective public participation depending on the level of implementation of the project" (Survey respondent 38)

"The participation organizers do not mobilize participants in advance. The same organizers do not give the low living standard people to express their issues during forums" (Survey respondent 43)

"The county government has not educated the public on their rights including those of public participation" (Survey respondent 103)

"In my opinion the county government has a long way to go in public participation. The first step must be educating the public that they have a lot to do by participating in each project in the county that concerns them" (Survey respondent 153)

There are a few however who indicated that the county has done their work of educating the public properly. For example;

"They have actually done some projects but some are not completed. They inform us". (Survey respondent number 131)

"The county has constantly conveyed plan of action". (Survey respondent number 215)

From the results in this section, the county government of Kericho has to improve on their trainings, seminars and meetings to ensure more people are reached. It could be true however that the county government does not invest much time and resources on face to face-to-face meetings for fear of criticism from those who oppose the regime. Kauzya (2007) explained that, those who attend public hearings tend to be mostly the critics of government. This affects government engagements with the public because it ends up reflecting the nature and extent of the opposition. Such challenges notwithstanding, Bone, Crockett and Hodge, (2006) point that, Public fora or face-face meetings are not about winning or losing, rather is about listening to individual experiences, concerns and what they value in regard to issues as well as hard facts. The nature of meetings is such that, they build on the existing capacity of the public to think, articulate and act together for a common good. The choices are then made considering values, and divergent views of people.

(d) Lobbying for issues through elected leadership

The researcher sought to know if the individual participants in the study have ever lobbied on issues that required them to send the Member of County Assembly (MCA) to address a specific issue.

The results of the study showed that, 83(35.6%) participants indicated they have lobbied. The rest 148(63.5%) have never lobbied and only 2(0.9%) never responded to the question.

The results can be interpreted to mean lobbying through the elected leaders is not a popular form of public participation. There are a few reasons that can explain this. First, it could be that the political leaders make it difficult to reach them. Some

participants, answered the second part of the question, open ended, that sought to clarify on the particular issues they were lobbying. Responses received include,

> "Reconstruction of damaged roads and supply of tap water to the community" (Survey respondent 31)

> "I have sent MCA to make a follow up Kenya power last mile electricity supply in our area, to also improve our ward rural roads" (Survey respondent 61)

> "The issue of feeder roads in my village to be upgraded, water pipes to enable members of public have clean water in their homes" (Survey respondent 71)

These are just but a few responses. Many of those who responded confirmed there is some level of lobbying that goes on throughout in Kericho County. Some of the projects they lobbied for have been done while others await future actions. The fact that some of the projects are already done, confirm Irimieș, (2017), postulations that, lobbying allows the decision-making processes and institutions to achieve higher accuracy in the control of interests, priorities and the orientation of representative groups. The representatives are able to respond to demands and issues and respond in a timely and accurate manner

(e) Participation in signing petitions

Another question was to find out if individual participants have ever petitioned against a proposal by the county government. The results on the data collected for this question indicated that, only 12(5.2%) have participated in such an exercise. Many of the participants 217(93.1%) have never petitioned the county government. Only 4(1.7%) participants did not respond to the question.

The researcher notes that, very few people have signed any petition. An analysis of the responses of 12(5.2%) responses in the open-ended question of the survey questionnaire proves that, few people will take such initiatives. This may be a preserve of a few with technical knowledge or are driven by specific interests. For instance, the following narratives signify that petitions address only technical issues and may not be popular as a means of participation for the general population.

"Construction of technical colleges" (Survey respondent 14)

"Construction of airport by the county government" (Survey respondent 26)

"When a road was poorly constructed in our area" (Survey respondent 56)

"Petition of impeaching poorly performing governor in his first term" (Survey respondent 97)

"I have led a delegation to the clerk of the assembly to petition the assembly to have Londiani Sub-county residence to air their views on the 2019-2020 budget estimates" (Survey respondent 155)

Further analysis on the level of education of those who provided the above narratives confirms that they are highly knowledgeable in different fields. For example, all the five have university level education. Survey respondent 14 did not indicate his occupation, 26- Medical officer, 56- Teacher, 97-Teacher and 155- retired high school principle. This may confirm that leaders of any petition exercise should be persons with relatively high understanding on the issues at hand.

As the elite in the society, the participants in the petition by virtue of their level of education that is higher than that of many, may be feeling obliged to participate in areas where other people could not help.

4.3 Summary of Findings

Evidently, from the analyzed data, the most effective mode of participation is attending fora 74(31.8%). This study established that despite the various modes of participation, the most used mode is election of project leaders 106(45.5%). This seems to agree with Kauzya (2007) when she explained that, the most understood form of citizen participation which is also the most common is voting in elections and referendums. It is through voting that the views of most people are represented more than any other activity. The second most used mode of participation is lobbying through elected leaders at 83(35.6%), and attendance of fora is third at 75(32.2%). The fourth is attending seminars at 65(27.9%). Apparently, the county has not done enough publicity on seminars. Many respondents indicated they have not had of any. The fifth one is provision of labor in county projects at 50(21.5%), Scrutinizing records came sixth at 45(19.3%). Participation in demonstrations was seventh at 41(17.6%) and attending budget reading at 23(9.9%). The least used mode is signing petition at 12(5.2%).

It was also established that, many people are not bothered by the budget allocations for various government projects in their area. Also, some modes of participation, for example budget reading, scrutinizing records and signing petitions are likely to be influenced by factors like level of education, individual occupations and proximity from the county headquarters. This in line with the postulations of Rational Choice Theorists that, constrains affect an actor's choice. The modes of participation provided in the study were not exhaustive. Participants indicated that there are other modes including consultations, working groups, workshops and partnerships.

In the next chapter, the researcher presents data and the interpretation on the level of public involvement in county projects. It is known by now that, the public can be involved in government projects but not to the desired levels. The researcher collected data and did the analysis in order to bring out the real picture on the level of public involvement in the different stages of government projects in Kericho County.

CHAPTER FIVE

EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC IN COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on the extent of involvement of the public in county development projects. The goal of this study was to determine whether the public is involved at all levels of development projects. This involves the identification of projects, selection, prioritizing, planning process, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects. The participants in this study were asked to provide their opinion on their extent of involvement in county development projects. The participants were to provide their opinion, in a scale of 1 to 5. Where 1 represents strongly disagree and 5 represents strongly agree.

5.1 Levels of involvement

Table 5.1: Levels of involvement in county projects

Areas of involvement	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
The county government engages us in identification of the projects	82 (35.2)	58 (24.9)	29 (12.4)	47 (20.2)	12 (5.2)
I am involved in choosing the projects	106 (45.5)	67 (28.8)	29 (9.9)	29 (12.4)	3 (1.3)
I am involved in prioritizing on the projects	101 (43.3)	72 (30.9)	29 (12.4)	24 (10.3)	3 (1. 3)
The county government engages us in writing project proposals	105 (45.1)	56 (24.0)	30 (12.9)	31 (13.3)	7 (3.0)
The county government engages us in Planning of projects	96 (41.2)	63 (27.0)	35 (15.0)	26 (11.2)	9 (3.9)
The county government engages us in Budgeting of projects	104 (44.6)	61 (26.2)	34 (14.6)	21 (9.0)	10 (4.3)
The county government engages us in lobbying for national government support on projects	82 (35.2)	58 (24.9)	36 (15.5)	33 (14.2)	15 (6.4)
The county government engages us implementation of projects	73 (31. 3)	67 (28.8)	31 (13.3)	43 (18.5)	16 (6.9)
The county government engages us in monitoring and evaluation	90 (38. 6)	63 (27.0)	31 (13.3)	33 (14.2)	12 (5.2)

5.1.1 The level of involvement of the public in identification of projects

The researcher wanted to assess the level of involvement of the public in identification of projects. From the participant's responses, 82(35.2%) strongly disagreed with the opinion that they are involved when identifying projects. Another 58(24.9%) also disagreed with the opinion. The researcher noted that a total of 140(60.1%) participants claim that, there was no public involvement at the project identification level. The researcher notes, the small numbers that agree to have participated, 47(20.2%) and 12(5.2%) that strongly agree, confirms that public involvement in projects identification was there but on a very small scale. A total of 59(25.4%) agree that at least they have been involved at project identification stage.

It was important for this study to find out if the people across the study area experience the same level of participation when it comes to project identification. The researcher therefore decided to crosscheck the results from level of participation and place of residence of the participants. The study found out that, irrespective of whether the participants lived in the urban, semi-urban or rural the response was the same reflecting very low levels of involvement at projects identification levels. For example, 11(4.8%) participants in the study who are urban dwellers strongly disagree and another 5(2.2%) disagree with the opinion that they are involved at project identification level. Cumulatively those who disagree amongst the urban dwellers are 16(7%). Those who agree on the other hand are only 4(1.8%) leading to a conclusion that there is little involvement. The same was checked with those in the semi-urban and rural areas and the results show consistently low involvement at project identification level across the region.

Public involvement at the initial stage ensures that projects done are in line with the people's needs and are informed by the existing circumstances. This aim should be to solve problems arising from privileges given to experts and bureaucrats in the planning process. The opinion of the very few people represented by 59(25.4%) participants in this study, who are involved at project identification level, may not be able to represent the wishes of the whole population appropriately. Every project has a goal that the county government is focused on achieving, but most importantly, this should be in line with the needs of the many beneficiaries.

Findings in this study, contradicts the role of devolution in the new constitution (2010), which was to eliminate problems associated with centralized planning where public officials made decisions without seeking public opinion. This was a characteristic of the old constitution and regime. There is danger in implementing projects that waste public resources when they fail to address the very pertinent issues. Despite the small number of people involved, these results seem to confirm the suggestion by Lederach, (2005), who explained that, the lower levels of public participation allow for mass participation but there is very little engagement for example, the voting activities. On the other hand, high level of participation is characterized by more in-depth and thus smaller scale participation. Involvement at project implementation stage may be at the higher levels of involvement.

White, (2011) however disagrees with Lederach, (2005) postulations, by hypothesizing that when the less powerful people are involved in development programs; their participation is out of the desire to be included. This level of participation is often for display. No much is expected to come out of the processes involved since it is the public officials who will have the ultimate decision-making

powers. This could also be true, that participation was just to satisfy the public that they were involved. The small number that agree they are involved in project identification, and the large numbers that disagree across the study area paint a gleam picture on the process of public participation in development projects. Aspects of participation were noted but the results of the study raise questions on the effectiveness. Before implementing projects, the county government is supposed to give priority to the opinion of the beneficiaries. This usually includes all people whose lives will be affected by the project.

5.1.2 Involvement in choosing projects

The researcher was interested in what happens after development projects have been identified. Identification of projects just provides a list of viable projects in an area. The choice of which ones are to be implemented comes in the subsequent stages of development planning. The results in this study show that, 106(45.5%) strongly disagree they have ever been involved in choosing projects. Another 67(28.8%) disagree with the opinion in the questionnaire bringing the total of those who disagree to 173(74.3%). The results reflect a situation where very few individuals have ever participated in an exercise that was aimed at choosing projects for an area. There are 29(12.4%) who neither agree nor disagree. This may simply be interpreted that; they may be aware that there is an opportunity to participate but they never made effort to be part and parcel of the process.

On the other hand, there were 29(12.4%) participants who agreed that they had been involved at the stage of choosing projects and another 3(1.3%) who strongly agree. Cumulatively, those who agree that they have participated in choosing projects in the past are 32(13.7%). A comparison of those who disagreed 173(74.3%) and those who

agreed 32(13.7%) show a glaring discrepancy in levels of participation from the expected. The results may suggest that, the duty of choosing projects is done by few people or government officials and the public may be involved at a very small scale.

The researcher decided to cross check the results from public involvement in choosing projects on some factors. These included age and incomes of participants. The findings on the effect of participants' ages on their involvement did not show any differences from those of general results above. For example, within the age limit of 18 to 24 years, 22(9.7%) strongly disagree and another 20(8.8%) disagree. Cumulatively within that age limit of 18 to 24 years, 42(18.5%) disagree with the opinion that the county government involves them in choosing of projects. A comparison of this with 3(1.3%) who agree, suggest that there is very minimal involvement. On the other age limits, 25 to 34 years those who strongly disagree are 49(21.6%) and those who disagree are 20(8.8%), giving a cumulative figure of 69(30.4%) individuals. Those who agree to have participated in the past are 8(3.5%) and only 1(0.4%) strongly agree. Cumulatively those who agree are 9(3.9%). For all of the other age limits, those who disagree and those who strongly disagree are consistently more than those who agree or strongly agree by far and large.

When the results are analyzed against income of participants, it was again evident that participation in choosing development projects across all the income categories is minimal. Income is not one of the factors that influence participation at this level. For example, those with incomes of below Ksh10,000, 46(20.9%) participants strongly disagree and another 32(14.5%) disagree. Cumulatively 78(35.4%) disagree that there has been any involvement at the level of projects identification. On the other hand, those who agree are only 10(4.5%) participants further confirming the very minimal

participation. The same is again reflected across all the other income limits with those who strongly disagree being consistently many and those who agree are also few across all the income categories.

Evidently, there is very minimal public participation at the level of choosing projects. Choosing of projects is based on an already prepared list of projects from the identification stage, but picking on which ones will be viable and beneficial is another process. How to choose out of the given projects will be on priority basis, and the dire need to provide solutions to most pressing problems. Choices will include decisions on which projects should be implemented and which ones should be left out. In the case of the projects in the study area, government seem to be implementing projects which are not entirely the choices of the people or with little or no involvement of the public. The right projects for an area are those chosen with the help of the targeted beneficiaries.

5.1.3 Involvement in prioritising the projects

The researcher notes that, as a matter of procedure, projects are identified, a choice is made on which ones are viable and those selected have to be prioritized. Projects are prioritized based on the most pressing needs then in that order. For this reason, it is expected that the people in a given area best know their problems and the possible solutions and that forms the basis of public involvement at this level.

The results on public participation in project prioritization process are 101(43.3%) participants, strongly disagree of any involvement. There are other 72(30.9%) participants who disagree that they have ever been involved in prioritizing projects. Cumulatively 173(74.2%) out of the sample population deny of any involvement in

prioritizing projects. This signifies very minimal public involvement in prioritizing projects.

On the other hand, those who agree that they have participated at the level of prioritization of projects are 24(10.3%) and another 3(1.3%) who strongly agree. A cumulative 27(11.6%) participants agree that they have at least been involved in project prioritization. Evidently, from these numbers, public participation has not been embraced at this level of development process at the county government. 27(11.6%) is a very small portion of the sample population and the same may be true with the real situation on the ground.

Public involvement in project prioritization in Kericho County needs to be improved significantly. The researcher saw it important to check if there are other factors that may explain the insignificant participation witnessed in project prioritization stage. The researcher noted with concern the possibility of age affecting the opinion of some people. It was then that results of prioritization were crosschecked against age.

The findings indicate presence of very minimal involvement irrespective of age. For instance, the age limit of 18 to 24 years, those who strongly disagree are 22(9.6%) while those who disagree are 19(8.3%). Cumulatively those who disagree are 41(17.9%) compared to only 1(0.4%) who agree and there is none that strongly agree. Results follow a similar trend across all the age limits, where those who disagree are far more than those agreeing to having participated at this level. This may suggest that, across all age categories participation in prioritizing projects is very low.

Prioritization follows on which are the most pressing needs or which ones can come first in order to facilitate in the process of getting other projects done. If the intended beneficiaries are not involved, then, there is a possibility that the wrong projects will

be done and in fact may not be sustainable in the long run because it lacks the good will of the residents.

5.1.4 Public engagement in writing project proposals

Project proposals form a critical part in any project. The proposal is informed by among other things the knowledge of the locals. It was therefore important to get the opinion of the participants in this study on their involvement at the stage of project proposals. Results indicated that 105(45.1%) participants strongly disagree on their involvement at this stage. Another 56(24.0%) disagree and therefore a significant part of the participants 161(69.1%) either disagree or strongly disagree. There are however a small group of participants 31(13.3%) who agree to have been involved in writing project proposals and another 7(3.0%) who strongly agree. Cumulatively those who agree and those who strongly agree are 38(16.3%).

The researcher thought it wise to check on the influence of the other factors at this stage also. Project proposals are usually written by skilled individuals on behalf of the intended beneficiaries. However, opinions and suggestions are sought from the public through the relevant channels of communication or respective government officials involved. It was important therefore to find out if education or ages of the citizen may have an impact on who would be part of the contributors at the proposal stage.

Table 5.2: Age verses participation in writing project proposals

Age categories of the respondents	The county government engages us in writing project proposals					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
18 to 24 years	25(11.0%)	12(5.3%)	10(4.4%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.4%)	48(21.1%)
25 to 34 years	44(19.3%)	26(11.4%)	9(3.9%)	10(4.4%)	4(1.8%)	93(40.8%)
35 to 44 years	16(7.0%)	5(2.2%)	3(1.3%)	14(6.1%)	0 (0.0%)	38(16.7%)
45 to 54 years	7(3.1%)	1(0.4%)	2(0.9%)	5(2.2%)	2(0.9%)	17(7.5%)
55 to 64 years	9(3.9%)	11(4.8%)	4(1.8%)	2(0.9%)	0(0.0%)	26(11.4%)
65 years and above	4 (1.8%)	1(0.4%)	1(0.4%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	6(2.6%)
Total	105(46.1%)	56(24.6%)	29(12.7%)	31(13.6%)	7(3.1%)	228(100%)

Results on the likely impact of age on participation at proposal writing stage show that, age of individuals has an impact on their participation in project proposal writing. For example, between the age limits of 18 to 24 years, except for 1(04%), all the other 37(16.3%) participants either strongly disagreed or disagreed. The researcher notes that between the age limits of 25 to 34 years, 35 to 44 years, and 45 to 54 years, participation increases. Although those who disagree are consistently more than those that agree, never the less one can observe that there is greater participation as age increases.

The trend however changes at the age limits of 55 to 64 years. Those who strongly disagree are many and in fact there are no respondents above 65 years that agreed to have participated.

In the case of Kericho County, results indicate a situation where the public officials implement project with little or no involvement of the public at the stage of drafting project proposals. This raises the issues of transparency and accountability. The

rational choice theory explains how self-interest leads individuals making certain choices that maximizes on benefits. In this case, it is likely that, age is a subjective element that can change individual choices. The older an individual is, the more the resources and networks they have and are likely to find proposal writing important. It is however critical to note that, the low participation by the public will leave the project proposal writing stage to county officers who are likely then to apply their knowledge and skills forgetting the most important part played by local knowledge.

5.1.5 Public engagement in planning of projects

The results from this study show that 96(41.2%) participants strongly disagree that they have ever been involved in planning and another 63(27.0%) just disagree. Cumulatively 159(68.2%) participants disagree with the opinion that they are involved by the county government in planning of projects. This simply suggests, the public watches as projects are implemented, they don't know what to expect but just accept what will come of the process. Those in charge of planning should ensure they reach a common understanding and are able to coordinate all actions based on reasoned argument, cooperation and consensus as proposed by the communication action theory. A plan should be able to give a picture of the end from the beginning; it acts as a road map. When a plan is there, those implementing and equally those monitoring the progress of a projects are able to tell the success at every stage based on the set milestones.

There are some 35(15.0%) participants who neither agree nor disagree on their involvement in planning. This can be explained in many ways, but one key thing is that, even if there is any involvement, it does not meet their expectations. It may signify dissatisfaction on anything to do with participation in planning of projects.

26(11.2%) participants agree that they have participated in planning a project from the county government and another 9(3.9%) strongly agree. In total 35(15.1%) participants have at least taken part in county project planning process. This group is proportionally small to the sampled population compared to those who disagree. This implies that, there is a section of people who are involved in the planning process but many are left out.

Participation in planning is significantly low and may help to explain for instance why people don't have information on allocation for many projects mentioned by participants. The application of the rational choice theory's postulations, lack of information forms part of the elements leading to constrained decision-making while making choices. Planning is an essential stage in project implementation. The public have to be involved when planning and be provided with clear strategies and timelines for each stage so that they can hold those responsible accountable for the work.

5.1.6 Public engagement in budgeting for projects

The researcher was interested in knowing if public participation is present in the budgeting process. The results of the research study indicate that, 104(44.6%) participants strongly disagree that there has been any involvement in the budgeting process. Another 61(26.2%) participants disagree on being ever involved in budgeting. This suggests that a large portion of the population is not involved in budgeting process. Public involvement across the county needs to be improved and this call for urgent measures that will allow greater participation and thus enable the public question projects.

 The researcher noted that, again there are some 34(14.6%) participants who are not certain on their participation in budgeting of projects. Budgeting is a technical process

and unless it is simple budgeting, it will require expertise knowledge. Despite the complexity of the process of budgeting public participation is critical because they can help provide information on availability of some of the requirements hence helping cut on costs.

Results indicate that, 21(9.0%) participants agree they have been engaged in budgeting process and another 10(4.3%) strongly agree. Cumulatively 31(13.3%) have participated in the budgeting process in county development projects. The small number may reflect those with business interests in the projects, those with expertise knowledge and the local leadership. For the caliber of projects being done by county governments' only professional accountants and other staff in the finance department can clearly understand. This does not however provide a reason to leave out members of the public from the process of budgeting. The small number of those who agree with the opinion that they have been involved in budgeting processes shows how participation at this level may be ineffective.

5.1.7 Public engagement in lobbying for national government support

The researcher was keen to understand if the public have been involved in calling upon the national government to contribute to certain projects. The constitution provides that the county and national government work together, and that is for the benefits of the citizens. The county government therefore carries the obligation to bring together the national government and the people when necessary.

In this study, results indicate that 82(35.2%) participants strongly disagree on presence of any engagement by the county government aimed at lobbying for resources from national government. Another 58(24.9%) also disagree. Cumulatively 140(60.1%), disagree on any involvement to lobby for resources from the national

government. This is despite the fact that, some projects are done collaboratively between the national and county governments. These include projects in the health sector, education and agriculture.

There are 33(14.2%) participants who agree that they have been involved in lobbying for resources from national government for county projects and another 15(6.4%) who strongly agree. Looking at the cumulative number of 48(20.6%) participants, it signifies very little public involvement when lobbying for resources from the national government.

5.1.8 Public engagement in implementation of projects

Project implementation involves several activities. The researcher wanted to know the role played by the public in the county government projects. The results from the data in this research indicate that, 73(31.3%) participants strongly disagree of any involvement at the stage of project implementation. Another 67(28.8%) participants disagree. Cumulatively 140(60.1%) individuals who gave their opinion in this study clearly deny any attempt by the county government to involve the public in project implementation. On another side the research results indicate 43(18.5%) agree that there is public involvement at the stage of project implementation and another 16(6.9%) strongly agree. Cumulatively those who have been involved in the implementation process are 59(25.4%).

The researcher however is concerned because in some instances the projects involve either manual work or work that requires little skill. Looking at the study area, such human resource is available. People have at least basic education and should be able to get opportunities in county development projects works.

5.1.9 Public engagement in monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring can be done by anyone because it does not require much technical knowledge. Some areas would however require one to be trained in order to inspect projects for quality. The focus was on knowing whether the county government engages the public in monitoring of county projects. Evaluation can only be done by people with some level of training, because it involves technical procedures. This research study however combined any responses either for participation in monitoring or for evaluation and therefore captured in the same question.

The results indicate that, 90(38.6%) strongly disagree on the presence of any involvement in monitoring and evaluation. Another 63(27.0%) also disagree bringing the total of those who disagree on any participation in the past to 153(65.6%) participants.

The study results however show that, there is some level of involvement for instance, 33(14.2%) of the participants agree that they have been engaged by the county government in monitoring of projects. A few other participants 12(5.2%) strongly agree that they have been involved by the county government in the monitoring of projects. Cumulatively 45(19.4%) agreed to have at least participated in monitoring and evaluation processes.

The results suggest that, participation is present; however, it is done at a very low level. The public have to be trained by the county officials on how to monitor projects for quality. This will ensure the contractors who win tenders on county projects adhere to quality standards. The residents of a particular area can easily tell if a given road for instance can withstand the rainy season or not. Projects should respond to the

beneficiaries needs. For example, the appropriate roads for a given area should be able to meet a given quality and satisfy the residents that it will last long enough.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study established that, public involvement at various levels of project development may be quite low, with the highest being project identification and implementation both at 59(25.4%). The second is lobbying for national government support 48(20.6%), monitoring of projects at 45(19.4%) and involvement in writing project proposals at 38(16.3%). The rest are planning at 35(15.1%), choosing projects at 32(13.7%), budgeting on county projects at 31(13.3%), and lastly prioritizing projects at 27(11.7%).

The results of data analysis reveal involvement that is below average at all stages of county projects. The participation of few individuals is due to lack opportunity due to the various constrains. This includes scarcity of information, lack of capacity, poor mobilization which confirms the postulations of the rational choice theory. Individuals may not find the rational choice in the whole process of county projects. The study also revealed that demographic factors including age, level of education, income occupation and residence may have insignificant impact on individuals' participation. The study also found that the county officials may be involving people just for inclusion purposes. The small number of participants signifies nominal participation. According to White, (2011), this level of participation is often for display.

Chapter seven focuses on the level of access to information by the public on county government development projects. Access to information is very critical for the public

to monitor the works of county government or county officials. It is therefore important to assess the information available to the public on development projects.

CHAPTER SIX

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

6.0 Introduction

This chapter presents findings and data interpretation on how the public gets to access information concerning county development projects. The aim of this study was to find out how county government provides information to the public on county development projects.

6.1 Access to Information

There are many ways the county government can use to pass information to the public. The way in which the government chooses to pass information largely determines level of access for the public. The government has the obligation to ensure public can access important information concerning development projects to promote accountability. Information enables people to make informed choices. This confirms the explanation of the rational choice theory when we view access to information as a critical part when making informed choices. This is in line with the provisions of Constitution of Kenya (2010), Article 118 (1) (a) that directs the national and county assemblies respectively to hold public meetings and function openly to the full view of citizens. The constitution further provides for participation in Article 201 (1) (a), which states that there should be openness, accountability, and public participation on public financial matters. Openness means people can get important information about development projects and are therefore able to monitor. To find out how the county interacts with the public, the researcher developed some opinion statements that represented different sources of information which can be used by the government. The respondents were then required to provide their responses from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Table 6.1: Different ways of passing information on county development projects

	Strongly Disagree N (%)	Disagree N (%)	Neither Disagree nor Agree N (%)	Agree N (%)	Strongly Agree N (%)
Phone calls	141(60.5)	39(16.7)	20(8.6)	19(8.2)	9(3.9)
Short Message Service	112(48.1)	55(23.6)	13(5.6)	37(15.9)	11(4.7)
Internet	69(29.6)	28(12.0)	26(11.2)	77(33.0)	27 (11.6)
Workshops	87(37.3)	54(23.2)	33(14.2)	43(18.5)	10(4.3)
Radio and TV	45(19.3)	41(17.6)	47(20.2)	72(30.9)	21(9.0)
Consultative meetings	92(39.5)	56(24.0)	43(18.5)	24(10.3)	10(4.3)
Brochures/Newspaper/Magazines	66(28.3)	44(18.9)	18(7.7)	76(32.6)	22(9.4)
Meetings/Barazas /fora	42(18.0)	37(15.9)	30(12.9)	96(41.2)	22(9.4)

6.1.1 Communication through phone calls

The results indicate that, phone calls are not used mainly as a way of passing county information to the public. Many of the respondents indicate, they have never received a phone call informing them or giving information specifically related to a development project.

For instance, 141(60.5%) respondents strongly disagree that they have received communication through phone calls and another 39(16.7%) also disagree. Cumulatively therefore, 180(77.2%) disagree on ever receiving a call in the past from county officials informing them of a development project. The results suggest that phone calls are not a popular means of passing information to the public. There are 20(8.6%) respondents who neither agree nor disagree. This could be interpreted to mean either they do not have communication gadgets, or they have never bothered to

find out if they can communicate to the county officials using their communication gadgets.

There is a small group of participants 19(8.2%), that agree and another 9(3.9%) that strongly agree that they have received communication through phone calls giving them information on development projects. Cumulatively 29(12.1%) participants agree that they have received communication through phone calls on county development projects. It may be unrealistic to imagine that the county government can make call to everyone in the community. Good enough, county officials have made calls to individuals concerning development projects. The 29(12.1%) may be the project leaders or opinion shapers/leaders in the community. It is important to also note that using phone calls as a means of passing information could be a reserve of those influential, opinion leaders or the wealthy.

There are very few people who can take time to make calls to county offices concerning public projects. The few are either those with direct benefits from such efforts, either social or economic. The rational choice theorist seeks to find the motivation behind every individual's action in the market place. It the case of this study area, individuals will likely seek information through calls where there are social and economic benefits.

6.1.2 Communication through workshops

Workshops have been associated with trainings and have been common in both public and private sector. The researcher thought it was important to find out if the county government could have used workshops to get information to the people.

Results reveal that 87(37.3%) respondents strongly disagree to the opinion that they received information through workshop attendance and another 54(23.2%) just disagree. Cumulatively 141(60.5%) of the participants disagree that workshops are used to pass information on development projects. This again signified a situation where workshops are not used as the way to communicate to the people on development projects. There are 33(14.2) who neither agree nor disagree on receiving information through workshops.

Those who agree to have attended at least a workshop and received information on development projects are 43(18.5%) and those who strongly agree are 10(4.3%). Cumulatively those who agree are 53(22.8%) compared to those who disagree 141(60.5%). This confirms very low participation in workshops aimed at informing the public on development projects. It could point out at a problem on the side of those responsible for mobilizing the public to attend workshops. Workshops are supposed to be a nice means of getting information across to the population on specific projects. It should be in such workshops that county government officials meet the people and educate them on importance of their participation in county projects. Workshops can further be used to disseminate critical knowledge and information on project implementation, progress and overall county goals.

6.1.3 Communication through Short Messaging Service (SMS)

The researcher wanted to know if Short Messaging Service (SMS) could have been an option that the county government uses to communicate its development agenda. This was important for this research because the public must be involved in county development projects as a constitutional right.

The results from the data collected indicate that, 112(48.1%) strongly disagree that they have received any SMS sent as communication on county development projects. Another group of 55(23.6%) simply disagree on receiving SMS's communication on development projects. Cumulatively, 167(71.7%) disagree that they have received communication in the past via SMS's. From the above results, it seems the county government does not consider use of SMS's as means of communication. There are 13(5.6%) who neither agree nor disagree with the opinion. Again, this could be interpreted to mean many things but more accurately, poor usage or lack of communication gadgets. Also, some people cannot type or read SMSs basically due to their low literacy levels.

There is however a small part of the sampled population that claim to have received communication through SMS's from the county government informing them on development projects. For example, 37(15.9%) indicated that they had been receiving communication through SMSs and another 11(4.7%) further confirm by strongly agreeing to the given opinion. A comparison on the number of those who disagree 167 (71.7%) and those who agree on the other hand, 48(20.6%) was done.

From the results the study found out that SMS's may not be commonly used to reach the members of public by the county government. SMSs are used to reach very few individuals in the larger population of Kericho County and therefore not an efficient way of getting information to the public.

Use of SMS by both individuals and companies communicating to their clients has become a norm. Today, banks, schools, churches other organizations are seen to embrace use of SMS's because of the ease to reach many people within the shortest time. SMS's nowadays allow for mass messaging platform at a relatively low cost.

The county has failed to embrace this efficient and less costly way of passing information. That can only be achieved if the public have sufficient information on the use of SMS's as a channel to aid communication in matters of participation. SMS's have proved to be very efficient in passing some types of information. County government can work with telecommunication companies and inform the people on seminars, public meetings and fora and even more, communicate the purpose in order to prepare their clients to for future engagements.

6.1.4 Communication through the Internet/Social media/website

With the level of penetration of the internet in Kenya, it was important for this study to find out if online options could help bridge the gap of communication between the county governments and the members of public. It may be known by now, that modern media of communication including virtual consultation forums (zoom, skype, WhatsApp video calls) and e-mails, are gaining popularity across the globe.

The results indicate, 69(29.6%) participants strongly disagree that they have received any communication in the past through online sources concerning development projects. Another 28(12%) participants also disagree that they get any information through online sources. Cumulatively those who disagree to have received any communication through Internet, social media or website are 97(41.6%). There are some 26(11.2%) participants who neither agree nor disagree. This can be interpreted differently but most accurately in this study is lack of ability to use internet. The reality of digital divide has been seen in this dispensation more than ever before. Some members of the public lack the gadgets that can access the internet, while to some internet has no significance in their lives.

It important however, to note the comparatively high number of participants that agree to have received communication through online sources including social media and county websites. For instance, 77(33%) agree and another 27(11.6%) strongly agree to have received communication on matters of development projects through online sources. Comparatively, this is the first source of information where those who agree a cumulative 104(44.6%) are more than those who disagree 97(41.6%). This can be interpreted to mean that close to half of the total population of Kericho County gets communication on issues of development through online sources.

In the study researcher's observation reveal readily available internet mechanisms of passing information, including a social media page for Kericho County, A WhatsApp group, County Government official website and several sub-county WhatsApp political forums highlighting on the performance of the county government and other issues. This supports the fact that the county government is working to ensure that the public have access to information on development projects through the various online platforms. By so doing all discussions will be based on knowledge and agreements and decisions made will be well informed.

6.1.5 Communications via Radio and Television

Radio and Television have for a long time been used as mediums of mass communication. Information disseminated through these channels are those that are open to the whole public. The researcher thought it was good for this research to investigate if the mediums could have been used as sources of information to the people of Kericho County.

The results indicate that 45(19.3%) strongly disagree and another 41(17.6%) disagree. Cumulatively, those with the opinion that Radio and Television is not a source of

information on county projects are 86(36.9%). There are 47(20.2%) respondents who neither agree nor disagree to have received information on development Via Radio and Television. The significantly large number of respondents who could not either agree or disagree could be attributed to the type and quality of information being disseminated.

On the other hand, those who feel that Radio and Television has been a source of information for them in the past are 72(30.9%), that agree and another 21(9.0%) that strongly agree. Cumulatively therefore, 93(39.9%) participants are of the opinion that they have received county development projects information through Radio and Television.

A comparative analysis of those who disagree 86(36.9%) and those who agree 93(39.9%) shows that mass media reaches a significant part of the population.

There are however other factors explaining the reason why those who disagree form quit a big group of the sample population. For instance, the county could be using local stations that broadcast in vernacular, leading to some people being left out. In fact, many people who don't speak the local dialect will listen to mainstream media as opposed to local vernacular stations. That means they will miss on some crucial information. Another possible reason is the polarization of development information, which has led to political leaders disseminating information that may not be true hence discrediting the media as a source. The rational choice is missing so that people do not see sense in using mass media as a reliable source of information on county projects. Many of the county leaders go to media to popularize themselves other than address serious issues. In the end, if the public find out that some of the information,

they share is not true yet the media provides them with airtime, they will find it difficult to depend entirely on what they hear or act on the basis of that information.

6.1.6 Communication through consultative meetings

Consultative meetings can be a nice way to communicate with the people. It has advantage over many other ways of passing information, in that people can ask questions and get responses on a face to face conversation.

The results from data on this opinion indicated that, 92(39.5%) strongly disagree and another 56(24%) disagree. Those who disagreed with the opinion provided in the questionnaire total up to 148(63.5%). This can be interpreted that; consultative meetings are not used extensively as a means of communication across the county. There are 43(18.5%) who neither agree nor disagree to have attended consultative meeting.

There are a few participants however, who agree that they have attended consultative meetings in the past. This include 24(10.3%) who agree and another 10(4.3%) who strongly agree. Cumulatively those who agree to have attended a consultative meeting in the past are 34(14.6%). Comparatively those who disagree are 148(63.5%) while those who agree 34(14.6%).

The study found out that consultative meetings serve as a means of communication to a significantly small portion of the population of Kericho County. When the public are consulted on development issues and their contribution incorporated in the implementation, it raises the level of trust of the constituents. Planning process should rid itself of giving privileges to experts and bureaucrats and replace the model of technical experts with reflective planning. This is only possible if there is extensive

consultation among the officials and the members of the public on certain issues. The results however suggest that county officials hold minimal public consultation on county projects.

6.1.7 Communication through Brochures /Newspapers/Magazines

Generally, brochures, newspapers and magazines are considered as print media. The researcher considered that print media has been for years a good source of information for public consumption. This was not necessarily true with the newly formed counties and hence a good reason to find out from the public if they get information via such means.

The results indicate that, 66(28.3%) strongly disagree on the opinion that print media (brochures/Newspapers/Magazines) is a source of information to them. Another 44(18.9) just disagree meaning, 110(47.2%) have never used print media to find out on information related to development projects in Kericho County. This suggests that, if they read, they did not consider that information important particularly for them. There are 18(7.7%) participants who neither agree nor disagree.

On another side, there are 76(32.6%) participants that find print media a good source of information and have received communication on development projects through the mediums in the past. Another 22(9.4%) strongly agree making the total number of those that agree to be 98(42%). Those who will most likely use brochures, magazines and newspapers are those with the ability to read and understand such information as may be a bit complex.

Written documents can be a source of information only if the intended recipient is able to read and understand. There is a lot of information in the print media but people

read them selectively based on interest. Based on the postulations of the Rational Choice Theorist, it means literacy levels can reduce the alternatives for individuals when it comes to the choice of the source of information. Information should therefore be tailored to target specific groups that are in the community and if possible, in the language they understand. Also cost implications can hinder uptake of information because not everybody can afford sources that deliver one-time information and become obsolete. The Rational Choice Theory best explains this situation. That means consumers of the information will have to make rational choices. Access to such print media can be difficult, especially if the county officials don't make arrangements on how to get them to the public across the county.

6.1.8 Communication through meetings/Barazas/fora

The researcher thought, public meetings, barazas and fora may be a means of communication for Kericho County residents. It was therefore important to find out if Kericho County has embraced these three ways to pass information to the people.

The study found that, 42(18%) strongly disagree, while another 37(15.9%) disagree. Cumulatively those who disagree are 79(33.9%). There are 30(12.9) who neither agree nor disagree that information is passed through meeting, barazas and fora.

There are 96(41.2%) of the participants who agree that they have either attended a meeting, *baraza* or forum aimed at passing information to the public on development projects. Another 22(9.4%) strongly agree that that they have at least attended meeting, barazas or a forum of the same. This therefore means 118(50.6%) participants have been part of meetings, barazas and fora hence making it the most preferred source of information by the public. These methods seem to be the most used by the county government based on the results from the analyzed data. It allows

for most of the members of public to get critical information on development without discriminating based of social or economic factors.

6.2 The kind of information that reaches the public

The researcher was concerned about information that reaches the public concerning development projects. The researcher posed a question in the interview schedule. The aim was to try and probe for more information on development projects. Information is key in ensuring transparency and accountability. Concerning the information, interview respondent 1, explained that "Not all information is available for the public. Even the available information is less effective for one to know the projects done by the county government". Another one, interview respondent 2, pointed out that limited and only certain type of information reach the public "little. Contracts mostly. Poor means of informing the public leads to low participation". Another response from interview respondent 3, seem to support that information is offered selectively "Information might be available concerning the contract or tenders. But when it reaches awarding to the qualified, corruption sets in. Not effective at all". All the responses seem to point out at an inefficient means of passing information that the county is using. There is an urgent need to attend to issues concerning communication that if not attended can have negative impact of public perception of the devolved government. Others pointed out that the only information they have include: Interview respondent 4, "Information on processing birth certificates through SMSs. Very effective". Another one also, interview respondent 5, explained that whenever "Texting county on problem that affect crops and they call me back".

The researcher was able analyze all the responses for the ten interview schedules. The researcher found out that most information reaching the public is that for tenders. This

suggests that, there is intentional withholding of other critical information to ensure public claims lack a basis or to avoid criticisms. This can therefore be explained as, tailoring of information to satisfy the participants. This goes against what O'Brien, Stapenhurst and Johnston, (2008) advocates for when they explain that, accountability involves a stage known as answerability where it is government obligation, those of its agencies, and public officials to provide information about the decisions and actions they make. They should also be able to justify them to the public and those institutions of accountability tasked with providing oversight. County government of Kericho has to ensure that mechanisms for passing information on development are working efficiently.

6.3 Summary of Findings

The study established that the main sources of information on county development projects are Barazas (Public meetings) and fora with 118(50.6%) participants indicating that they have received information through these channels in the past. Social media, internet and website comes second most utilized mode with 104(44.6%) participants accepting to have benefited from these channels. Thirdly, Brochures, Newspapers and Magazines as a medium of communication also reach a significant number of residents with 98 (42%) participants indicating they got information through this source.

The other sources may be underutilized. For instance, out of the study respondents 93(39.9%) claim they get information through mass media like radio and television. This medium is underutilized based of the observation of the researcher that confirmed, there are a number of local radio stations that broadcast from the county headquarters. The rest are workshops that reach only 53(22.8%), Short Message

Service (SMS) 48(20.6%), consultative meetings 34(14.6%) and lastly phone calls 29(12.1%).

Evidently, communication channels have to be improved to ensure the public is furnished with sufficient and timely information on development projects. Unless the public is furnished with prompt and accurate information regularly, the county officials will not be able to rid the planning process of unnecessary privileges given to experts and bureaucrats and replace the model of technical experts with reflective planning. Otherwise the efficacy of the public participation process is very low. The researcher further established that the county government reaches less than half its population by using each of the communication channels assessed in the study. The respondents have corroborated this by confirming they have limited information on developing projects in the county. That may mean that people do not act together to demand accountability because of lack of transparency on the part of the county officials. It means therefore, poor access to information form part of the constraints to the rational choice in monitoring of public projects.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summery of findings, conclusions and recommendations. The chapter also gives suggestion for further research based on researcher's understanding of the area of study. They informed by the findings of the present study.

7.1 Summary of Findings

There are various modes that the public can use to participate in matters concerning them, this study was however not exhaustive. Those discussed include voting, attending fora, signing petitions, attending budget reading, demonstration and lobbying. However, the participants were allowed to indicate any other modes and they included consultations, working groups, workshops and partnerships. This means, there are many modes or methods of participation that can be exploited to ensure effective public participation in county development projects.

The research found out that, the most effective mode of participation according to the participants in the study is attending fora 74(31.8%). The second most effective is demonstration at 56(24%), scrutinizing records at 40(17.2%), then attending budget reading at 27(11.6%). The results further indicated that other modes had an overall efficiency of 36(15.5%). Among the various modes of participation, attending budget reading seems to be the least attended. This usually takes place at the county headquarters only and may partly explain the reason for low attendance. Many people are not bothered by the budget allocation for various government projects in their area. This will definitely affect their capacity in monitoring government projects.

Without such crucial information or details on projects, the public will demand less from those charged with the duty of implementation or even nothing at all.

Some modes of participation, for instance participation in budget reading, scrutinizing records and signing petitions are discriminatory on those with limited education. For example, scrutinizing records as a mode of participation limits participation to only those who are able and willing to read and understand. Most records are found at the county offices at the county headquarters. Some are found online in platforms that require one to be computer proficient in order to access. Access can be costly for the members of public hence the low motivation to look for such reports. All the difficulties encountered in using this methods account for elements, constrains, utility, social outcomes or beliefs which limit the rational choice. With all the constraints, use or choice of a particular available alternative is either made impossible or prohibited.

Despite forum being a very attractive mode of participation, still it is less popular since they have not given the required support by the county government. Many people do not attend forums and seminars because of poor publicity and some feel that their contribution is not valued and therefore not included in decision-making. On another side, demonstration received wide support but participation in real action was evidently large among those between the ages of 24-44 years. Demonstrations are highly effective where other modes have failed because it tends to use citizen power to achieve results. Many people don't know that demonstration, riots and public protests are modes of public participation that point at the lack or insufficient information which reduces the effectiveness of peaceful public participation.

Provision of labor in county projects is a mode of participation, but one that is limited by the number of such opportunities. It sometimes allows favoritism which makes it

less attractive as a mode of participation. Elections are the most used mode of participation with many people indicating they have participated in election of their local project leaders. The county needs to improve on the existing modes to enable achievement of greater results.

It was noted that, a significant part of the population is not aware of the importance of their participation. This is part of the reason many people do no embrace these modes of public participation. The result is low efficacy of the participation process.

It is evident the officials of the county government may be implementing what they think or know is best for the people and not what people are asking for. Public participation should be incorporated at all stages of county development projects. This includes project identification, prioritization stage, implementation, monitoring and even evaluation. While observing the area of study, the researcher noted that the county government had done a significant number of projects since 2014 including road grading, upgrading urban roads to bitumen, expanding dispensaries and creation of ECDE centers. The projects should have involved the public extensively and the same reflect in the process of project implementation. The results however paint a different picture when very many participants don't feel part of any implementation process.

The public are involved at the various levels of project implementation in Kericho County as suggested by the small number of participants who indicated they have participated. It may be true however, that participation has remained at the level of tokenism. This means that, despite the public being given opportunity to participate, their views and opinions are not incorporated in the county projects. There is need for the county government to do a lot to ensure effective participation in county projects.

The need for public participation is based on the fact that, lack of general sense of ownership, which is usually attained from shared authorship, may lead to the public dislike of government projects. The public should be made to understand and even support and be part of every government development planning. Results suggest that, public officials in the study setting involve the public for inclusivity and display purpose. At the end, planning and implementation will be based on the will of the few experts or county public officials.

The study found out that, Kericho County government communicates with the people through various means. However, the choice of a particular channel of communication should be informed by its effectiveness. For example, it is evident from the results some means of communication are limited to only sections of the larger public that is targeted. For instance, use of phone communication may not be popular, however there are few people who do get phone calls. Evidently the county cannot rely on making calls as a means of passing information to the public concerning projects, unless the information is meant for specific individuals. Use of Short Messaging Service (SMS) may not be widely used to reach the larger population, never the less when communicating; the county has used this method. For example, survey respondents did indicate that, they have received SMS's informing them of progress in processing of birth certificates; others have done inquiries on agricultural inputs and received feedback on time.

With the penetration of the internet across the county and further access to affordable communication gadgets by the public, use of online communication is attractive. Results in this study found that a significant portion 104(44.6%) of the population in the county do get information on development through social media pages. This may

further confirm that, the county has been a beneficiary in government efforts to overcome problems of digital divide by providing affordable and easily assessable internet to its population. Despite the good effort, there is a section of the county population that is still alienated from the benefits of devolution because of lack of sufficient information that would facilitate participation.

Workshops on the other side are held by the county but they don't seem to achieve the desired efficiency. With only 53(22.8%) indicating they had attended a workshop to get information on development projects. Mass media on another side, including radio and TV may serve to pass information very effectively. Many respondents indicated they have received information through radio. In the era of free society where information can be disseminated through local vernacular stations, local radio stations have come in handy within the county to help educate and inform the public. Consultative meeting is the least efficient in reaching out to the public with information on development projects. Such meeting can only be held with specific groups. The use of print media including brochures/ Newspapers/ Magazines may only be effective when targeting a certain section of the population. Print media is evidently in use because the county even distributes brochures to educate farmers during barazas. The problem is that some portion of the population based on their low levels of education and understanding can be disadvantaged. Public barazas are the most effective, with many participants indicating they have attended. In conclusion therefore success in passing information can be achieved using means like public Baraza/ Forums, Radio and Television and social media.

7.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the researcher notes that there is public participation in Kericho county. From the research findings, participation is not as effective as was envisioned by the constitution of Kenya 2010. There is however great improvement in participation in the devolved unit compared to the previously centralised management at the national level. The public is aware of public participation and the importance of their participation but the researcher noted that members of public cannot tell when to participate and where. This study therefore concludes that, Kericho County has not done enough to sensitize the public on the importance of their participation. The county has also not made clear the role of the public in development projects.

The researcher further concludes that, there are many ways the public can participate in county development projects in Kericho County. They include participation in budget preparation, attending fora, scrutinizing records, elections of project leaders and seminars. Public participation is present at all stages of development projects. Participation is however lower that the desired levels. There are many sources of information for the public on county development projects. The county has however failed to identify the most appropriate way or channel of information to the various categories of their clients.

7.3 Recommendations

The county government of Kericho should provide the public with education on modes of participation. This includes both the formal and informal modes, so that people will not be silent when they know things are not being done in the right manner. Such efforts should include, allowing growth of strong civil society organizations (CSOs) that are based on expertise knowledge and are people driven.

The county government of Kericho should educate the public on their roles in development projects. Monitoring for instance can be done by independent persons or community groups, but in many cases, people approach it as if it is a prerogative of the government. Those tasked with the duty of supervising implementation of county projects should be questioned. Participation goals in development are only achieved when public opinion counts from planning stage to implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

The government should invest in proper channels of communication to disseminate information to the public more appropriately. This will equip members of public with knowledge in order to demand accountability of officials in every activity during project development. The government should further allow for direct feedback from the public so as to ensure those who misbehave with public resources are reported. For example, the county should consider use of advisory committees made up of citizens to gather information on public opinion. The committee formation should consider the differences in values among the members. Value differences have the potential to create infighting which can affect its effectiveness.

The county government of Kericho need to embrace public participation in all sector's development projects and even more, ensure that it achieves a greater positive impact. For instance, in chapter four, the respondents indicated that participation is greater after devolution as a result of the various legal provisions. Still in the same chapter four, respondents indicated that there is little impact as a result of their participation in various sectors.

7.4 Suggestion for Further Research

The researcher in undertaking this study could not cover all the areas related to effectiveness of public participation in county development projects. The general information included assessing the impact of existing public participation policies on the performance of county development projects. The research has mainly done a lot, to assess the modes of participation, levels of involvement of the public in county development projects and sources of information for the public concerning development projects. I suggest the following to be done:

(i) There is need to investigate the low participation of the feminine gender in development projects. This area requires inquiry to improve on existing knowledge particularly in the study area.

(ii) The role of the educated youth in ensuring public participation policies have an impact in development planning. This is because citizen power requires both intellectual and physical strength.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire

A questionnaire on the effectiveness of public participation in County government development projects. A case study of Kericho County, Kenya

<u>**Dear Respondent**</u>

I am Elphas Ngeno, a second-year student at Moi University, undertaking a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration and Public Policy. This study is for academic purposes and the main objective is to assess whether the legal and institutional framework meant to enhance public participation in governance has the capacity to fully guarantee the attainment of its objectives. The information you provide therefore, would be useful in determining and explaining the effectiveness of public participation in order to give suggestions on improvement of the process in Kericho County. The information you provide will be treated with confidentiality. Your assistance in providing accurate and truthful information will be highly appreciated.

Questionnaire No. …………………………Date………………………

SECTION A: Personal Information

1. Gender
   1. Male ☐   2. Female ☐

2. Age …………………………(years)

3. Education level
   1.   Primary School ☐
   2.   Secondary School ☐
   3.   Tertiary college ☐
   4.   University ☐
   5.   None ☐

4. Where do you live (please mark the appropriate one below)?
   1. Urban ☐   2. Semi-urban ☐   3. Rural ☐
      Setting

5. What is your average income per month (Please use the following approximates)?
   1. 0-10,000 ☐   2. 11,000-21,000 ☐
   3. 22,000-32,000 ☐   4. 33,000-44,000 ☐
   5. 45,000-55, 000 ☐   6. 56,000 and above ☐

6. Are you a registered voter in Kericho County?

    1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

7. What is your occupation? (teacher, farmer, business person, other)

    specify……………………………….……………………………………………..

SECTION B: Specific Information

8. What do understand by public participation?

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………

 (a) Do you have any knowledge on the county development projects done in your area? ☐   ☐

      Yes   No

    (b) If your answer in (a) above is yes, please indicate by listing some of the projects   in   the   space   below

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………

9. Do you know what the constitution says about public participation?

    Yes ☐   No ☐

10. Do you know what the county government act 2012 says on public participation?

    Yes ☐   No ☐

11. Do you know what the Kericho County public participation Act 2014 provides for the people of Kericho County?

    Yes ☐   No ☐

12(a) Have attended any training, seminar or meeting organized by the county government to teach on the importance of public participation?

    Yes ☐   No ☐

    (b) If your answer is **No** please give a reason

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………

………………………..……

13. How do you rate the performance of the devolved government in planning and implementing and management of development project in Kericho compared to the previous centralized government? (Reference to specific areas)

    1. Very poor **2.** Poor 3**.** Neither good nor poor **4.** Good **5**. Very good

		1	2	3	4	5
1	Education					
2	Health					

3	Roads					
4	Agriculture					
5	Water projects					

13. Please provide your opinion regarding the mode of participation in county government development projects.

1-Strongly disagree **2-** Disagree **3-** Neither Disagree nor Agree **4-** Agree **5-** Strongly Agree

		1	2	3	4	5
1	I regularly attend budget reading at the county headquarters					
2	I participate in scrutinizing records to seek for information about a particular project					
3	I participate in demonstration to protest against specific county government plans and projects					
4	I have participated in providing labor in county government projects					
5	I usually attend fora where the governor or other county executives are addressing issues of development around our area.					
6	I have participated in election of leaders to serve in particular projects funded by the county government.					
7	I usually attended seminars that provide education on our rights to participate county government plans and projects					

14. Have you ever lobbied by sending your county representative (MCA) with a particular issue you needed to be addressed?

    (i) YES ☐   (ii). NO ☐

If yes, explain …………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………

15. Have you ever signed a petition to decry or support a proposal by the county government?

    (i) YES ☐   (ii) ☐

If yes, explain………………………………………………………………….
…………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………

16. Do you think your participation was instrumental in changing the results of project in your area?

    (i)   YES ☐   (ii) NO ☐

    Name   the   project(s)   and   how   you   participated

………………………………………………………….……………………

………………………………………………………….............................

......……………………………………………………………………………….

17. Which mode of participation do you think is the most effective?

    (i) Attending budget reading (ii) Scrutinizing records (iii) Participation in demonstration (iv) Attending fora (v) Other

    ………………………………………………………………………….

20. Please provide your opinion on the impact of public participation on the way the county government development projects are done.

    1-Strongly disagree **2-** Disagree **3-** Neither Disagree nor Agree **4-** Agree **5-** Strongly Agree

		1	2	3	4	5
1	The county government incorporates the opinion of the public in the Education sector					
2	The public opinion has helped shaped the health sector services in the county					
3	The public have been fully involved in roads projects					
4	The government gives proper attention the farmers concerns in the agriculture related activities					
5	Water projects have been done based on the opinions and needs of the public					
6	The county government has attended to the needs of the youth, including setting aside some tenders/projects for them					
7	The county government has attended to the needs of women including setting aside some tenders/projects for them					
8	The county government has effectively involved the public in campaigns to end corruption					
9	The public opinions have an effect in the way services at the county offices are provided					

19. Have encountered officials from the county educational office supervising a project in schools around your area?

    (i)   Yes   (ii) No

    Name the project(s) …………………………………………………………

20. Do you think public opinion has had an impact on service provision in the health facilities within your area?

    (i)   Yes   (ii) No

Explain…………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………
…………………….

22. Are you aware of the budget allocation for roads projects in your area?
(i)Yes   (ii) No
Explain you answer …………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………

23. Identify projects or issues in the agricultural sector that the county government have done in your area? Was the public involved and how?..……………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………….

24. Please provide your opinion on the extent of involvement of the public in county development projects according to each level of the Likert scale.

1-Strongly disagree 2- Disagree 3- Neither Disagree nor Agree 4- Agree 5- Strongly Agree

		1	2	3	4	5
1	The county government engages us in identification of the projects					
2	I am involved in choosing the projects					
3	I am involved in prioritizing on the projects					
4	The county government engages us in writing project proposals					
5	The county government engages us in Planning of projects					
6	The county government engages us in Budgeting of projects					
7	The county government engages us in lobbying for national government support on projects					
8	The county government engages us implementation of projects					
9	The county government engages us in monitoring and evaluation					

25. Please provide your opinion on the source of information provided by the county government on development projects according to each level of the Likert scale.

1-Strongly disagree **2-** Disagree **3-** Neither Disagree nor Agree **4-** Agree **5-** Strongly Agree

		1	2	3	4	5
1	I often get communication through phone calls					
2	I often get communication through Short Message Service (SMS)					
3	I often get communication through Internet – (Social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook and other websites)					
4	I usually get communications through Workshops					
5	The communications are often done via Radio and TV					
6	The communications are often done through Consultations					
7	The communications are often done through Brochures/Newspaper/Magazines					
8	The communications are often done through Meetings/Barazas/fora					

26. Do you think the county government has done enough to ensure the success of public participation process?

(i) Yes ☐   No. ☐

Please explain your answer …………………………………………………....

		1	2	3	4	5
1	I often get communication through phone calls					
2	I often get communication through Short Message Service (SMS)					
3	I often get communication through Internet – (Social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook and other websites)					
4	I usually get communications through Workshops					
5	The communications are often done via Radio and TV					
6	The communications are often done through Consultations					
7	The communications are often done through Brochures/Newspaper/Magazines					
8	The communications are often done through Meetings/Barazas/fora					

(i)   Do you think the county government has done enough to ensure the success of public participation process?

(i) Yes ☐   No. ☐

Please explain your answer …………………………………………………....

Appendix II: Interview Schedule for Opinion Leaders and Community Mobilizers

Interview schedule No………..………. Date…………………….

1. Are you a registered voter in Kericho County?
2. What is your occupation? (teacher, farmer)
3. Do you know of any county development projects in your area?
4. In your observation, how can you explain the performance of the county government in development projects?
5. How do you compare the performance of the county government managed projects with the previous centralized government managed projects in your area?
6. How does the public get to participate in county government development projects? Do you think the modes are effective and why?
7. How do rate the participation/involvement of the public in county development projects?
8. In your opinion is information concerning county development projects available to the public? Do you think county officials are effective (promptly and regularly) in disseminating information on the county development projects? (completed, ongoing and forthcoming).
9. What are the challenges you encounter while seeking information concerning county development projects?
10. Can it be said that the existing public participation policies (Constitution of Kenya 2010, County government act 2012, Kericho County public participation Act 2014) have had an impact on the way the county government development projects are done?
11. What are some of the limitations of the existing public participation policies?
12. What do you think is the role of stakeholder groups such as county assembly legislation, non-governmental societies, and community-based groups?
13. Do you think the county government has done enough to ensure the success of public participation process? Please explain your answer.

Appendix III: Research License

THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013

The Grant of Research Licenses is Guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period
2. The License any rights thereunder are non-transferable
3. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Governor before commencement of the research
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearence from relevant Government Agencies
5. The License does not give authority to tranfer research materials
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) within one of completion of the research
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice

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