

ADMINISTRATIVE FACTORS HINDERING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS IN WAJIR EAST CONSTITUENCY, WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: This study undertook an investigation into administrative factors hindering citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir East Constituency, Wajir County, Kenya. The study was guided by four specific objectives: To determine the influence of community mobilization on citizen participation in Wajir East Constituency; establish the influence of human resources on citizen participation in Wajir East Constituency; assess the influence of financial resources on citizen participation in Wajir East Constituency; determine the effect of material resources on citizen participation in development planning in Wajir East Constituency. The study was based on Arnstein's ladder of participation, Participatory Rural Approaches, and Democratic theories. A descriptive research design is adopted for this study. The target population for this study was 377 and the sample size was determined as 191 respondents. However, the actual sample size was 117 respondents. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the categorical data (frequencies, percentages) and interval data (mean, standard deviation). Inferential statistics were used to measure the association between variables (Pearson's correlation) and direction of relationship between variables (regression analysis). The findings revealed that mass media had the greatest association with citizen participation; facilitation costs had the greatest association with citizen participation followed by budget allocation among the financial resources sub-variables; correlation analysis indicated that public official skills, perceptions, and leadership all had positive and significant associations with citizen participation; and no significant association were found between material resources sub-variables and citizen participation. The study concludes the use of social media and barazas as a means of mobilizing the community was a challenge towards citizen participation in development planning in Wajir East Constituency. The study recommends that Barazas should be used to mobilize the community for citizen participation; that public participation officers should be trained on communication, listening, and planning skills to effectively and efficiently organize citizen participation; that the county government should allocate financial resources to provide material resources for citizen participation. The county administration should evaluate the current allocation of facilitation costs to ensure that funds earmarked for citizen participation facilitation are used for this purpose only.

Keywords: Administrative Factors, Citizen Participation, Development Planning Process, Wajir East Constituency.

1. INTRODUCTION

Citizen participation is a component of the democratic reform thoughts that consists of public involvement, citizen engagement, participatory democracy, collaborative governance, and deliberative democracy. Citizen participation is perceived as a commitment from a government to nurture profound knowledge levels among its publics usually about the present subject and the potential solutions thereby providing citizens with opportunities to practice the knowledge in

service of program or policy development in an ongoing or regular basis (Chirchir et al., 2014). The local government is the closest form or level of governance to the community and is often obliged to provide an environment for citizen participation in local governance (Fuo, 2015).

The growing interest of citizen participation has been fueled by the mistrust that exists between the public and government. Cooper et al. (2006) opined that the reduced trust of the public in government has also led to the increased interest in establishing the function of civic engagement as a core part of a thriving democracy. Citizen engagement is an idea that can enhance the trust of government among the citizens (Cooper et al., 2006), improve the quality of response from the government (Yang & Holzer, 2006), and augment the legitimacy of government (Fung, 2006). According to Reddel (2002), these factors have contributed to the re-emergence in political and academic disciplines of values and ideas of community, citizens, and local participation. Today, it is hard to find a government that does not emphasize citizen engagement (Dutil et al., 2007).

Citizen participation is a major provision and promise in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 in Article 10 which articulates that the objective of devolution is to enable people to practice the powers of self-governance and increase the people's participation in the exercise of powers of the government in decision making that affects them. The Constitution allocates the responsibility to facilitate build capacity, and ensure that the public is engaged in governance of the county government (Republic of Kenya, 2016). The County Governments' Act 2012, specifically, Parts IX and VIII exclusively deal with public communication, access to information, and citizen participation. Article 87 spells out the tenets of citizen participation in counties (Chirchir et al., 2014). According to Mugambi and Theuri (2014), international governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have come to appreciate that the success of development projects relies on the lasting, effective, and active participation of the targeted beneficiaries. Community participation is a critical part of the Vision 2030 due to the important cornerstones of the economic and social pillars is devolution. The expectations are that public resource management, policy-making, and revenue sharing will be significant drivers of development and communities will need to be actively engaged to enhance efficient targeting of resources (Barasa & Eising, 2012).

Wekesa (2006) explained that development planning is universally practiced today despite the fact that it is prone to failure stimulated by poor technical design of plans due to lack of expertise and inadequate information, unrealistic targets and lack of commitment from some governments that plan to please donors by implementing projects, at the expense of the community. Similarly, external factors such as the impact of rational economies or cross-border integration of markets, conflicts between different stakeholders and inadequate communication and consultation between public and private sector leaders during the planning phase, can render a plan obsolete for instance the current disagreement between the national assembly and senate may hinder the revenue distribution plan.

According to the United Nations (2008), effective participation relies on different administrative and socio-political factors. These includes the presence of decentralized and democratic government structure, a responsive staff, political commitments, mechanisms of participation, policy provisions, capacity building programs, availability and accessibility to information and other related factors. However, there was no empirical evidence to support this argument.

A number of studies have examined citizen participation from an administrative perspective and find that organisational factors – such as political support, political control, leadership, red tape, hierarchical authority, mutual trust, citizenship education, technological knowledge, accessibility, infrastructure, training, budget and resource authority, and variables related to participants' competence and representativeness – all have strong impacts on participation outcomes (Chowdhury, & Aktaruzzaman, 2017). The citizen participation process, nevertheless, is at times threatened by constraints of bureaucracy due to inadequate public administration systems and lack of systematic approaches which result to exclusion of the public from the process (Marzuki, 2015).

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides room for citizen participation of the public as stipulated in Article 10 as one of the national principles and values of governance. Article 174 (c) notes that the aim of devolution is to increase people's participation in the practice of powers of the government and decision making in issues facing them. Article 184 (1) (c) requires that structures for people's participation be included in the national legislation related to cities and urban areas management and governance. The Public Finance Management Act 2014 was enacted to enhance engagement between the state and citizens on financial matters. The County Governments Act 2012 addresses the need for citizen participation at the county level. The County Citizen participation guidelines were developed to guide of citizen participation at the county level.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The devolution form of governance was adopted with the intent to increase citizen participation in development planning. However, a survey conducted by Transparency International Kenya (2014) an year after the implementation of devolved governance revealed that 16 out of the 47 counties, only 15 % of the public in Kenya had experience by participating in citizen consultation forums in their county government. The Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey (2014) reported that 80 % participants indicated that they found it hard to participate in decision-making and 9 % said it was easy to be involved in county budgeting and planning (Institute of Development Studies [IDS], 2014). A survey by KHRC (2015) survey showed that despite County Governments involving the people in many “public” forums and utilizing several media to make information available, citizen participation, communication and access to information was still problematic. Approximately, 8 in 10 Kenyans find it hard to participate in major county activities and to access information on legislation, county budgets, and project plans mainly because the information is not easily accessible to the wider population while the media commonly used is out of reach for the majority of people.

Mugambi and Theuri (2014) study found that citizen participation was not done as per the stipulated guidelines. Notwithstanding these premises, motivating citizens to participate in policymaking is still a challenge. Okongo (2015) found that citizen participation in governance is still low; the county government is still facing challenges in delivering essential services coupled with hiccups of human resource and manpower. Kaseya and Kihonge (2016) found that citizen participation in Nairobi County was only fairly effective. This means that there was a need for more effective citizen participation in county governments. Despite legal provisions, frameworks and guidelines to improve citizen participation in development planning is still low or non-existence in some counties. For example, In September, 2016, a petition by the Wajir Anti-Corruption and Justice Forum (WAJUF) against the Governor of Wajir County of being in breach of the constitution Non-accountability and openness including citizen participation in financial matters by failing to consult residents of Wajir County and other stakeholders on matters related to budgeting and development as required by the Constitution. The study, therefore, seeks to undertake an assessment of administrative factors hindering citizen participation in the development planning process in Wajir East Constituency.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study was to assess the administrative factors hindering citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir East Constituency, Wajir County, Kenya.

Specific Objectives

The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- i. To determine the influence of community mobilization on citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir East Constituency
- ii. To assess the influence of financial resources on citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir East Constituency
- iii. To determine the effect of human resources on citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir East Constituency
- iv. To determine the effect of material resources on citizen participation in development planning in Wajir East Constituency

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review

Arnstein's ladder of participation Theory

This study adopted Arnstein's (1969) ladder of participation theory to discuss the importance, rationale, and need for citizen participation in the development planning process. The ladder of participation model was developed in Sherry Arnstein. Arnstein (1969) pointed that participation that does not redistribute power is a frustrating and empty process for the powerless. In this model, Arnstein, lists eight rungs of participation where each level is representative by different conditions or objectives which highlighted the degree of citizen's power in reaching the end product (Arnstein, 1969).

Manipulation is the first rung of the ladder and involves influencing the citizens and gain support by using propaganda. According to Arnstein (1969), citizens are in rubberstamped committees to talk about of cultivating support and educating them (p. 218). However, these committees usually do not have any legitimate power or function (Arnstein, 1969). The second rung represents therapy and perceives that citizens do not have the capability of decision-making and the people in power subject the public to clinical group therapy or patriarchal education exercises as forms of clarification (Brooks & Harris, 2008).

The second is tokenism, in this stage, information goes from the administration officials to the public with no conduit provided for feedback and no power for negotiation through superficial means such as media, posters, and pamphlets. Consultation, the fourth rung on the ladder, provides for a two-way flow of information through meetings, hearings, and surveys. The final rung in tokenism stage is placation, where citizens begin to gain influence through boards or committees, but they can still be outnumbered or overruled (Tjahjono, Bisri, & Gani, 2014).

The third rung of the ladder begins with the partnership rung where powerholders and citizens agree to share decision-making and planning responsibilities via structures that include planning committees, policy boards, and decision making for solving conflicts (Arnstein, 1969). Arnstein discussed some features that are effective in facilitating partnerships such as organized groups and leaders within financial resources for technicians and community. Delegated power is the seventh rung of the ladder and occurs when the public can ensure that the program is accountable by reaching dominant decision-making authority over the program or plan (Arnstein, 1969).

This theory is relevant to this study as it discusses the different levels of citizen participation. The stages described – nonparticipation, tokenism, and citizen power – indicate the ways in which successful citizen engagement can be achieved. The theory is useful for analyzing citizen participation using the Uphoff and Cohen (1977) dimension (decision-making, implementation, benefits, and evaluation) for measuring citizen participation which has been adopted for this research. The theory is used to measure the level of engagement of the public in decision-making, implementation, identifying the benefits and evaluating the development outcome.

Participatory Rural Approaches (PRA)

The PRA model was proposed in the early 1990s with preference for a bottom-up approach to a top-down approach and promoting the learning process from the blueprint process. The PRA is mostly credited to the works of Robert Chambers. Participatory Rural Approaches are aimed at enabling citizens to do their own analysis and plan and take action. The objective of PRA is to contribute to the strengthening capacity of community to make decisions, plan, and make actions to improve their situation (Chambers, 1994).

According to Reason and Heron (1986), PRA is a technique of learning the rural environment and life from the perspectives of the local. The approach means that field workers and researchers should act in facilitating local people to analyse, plan, and make actions for their development. The PRA is based on the idea that local people are capable and creative to conduct their own planning, analysis, and investigations. The main objective of PRA is learning from rural communities.

There are five significant values that underpin any PRA actions despite the setting or objectives (Cavestro, 2003). The first tenet is flexibility which refers to the mix of methods that are suitable for a specific development setting and is determined by variables that include skill and size combination of the PRA team, location and topic of work, and the resources and time available. The second value is participation which is a method that is tailored to allow local people involvement as partners with the PRA team not only as sources of information but are also engaged in analyzing and gathering information.

The third principle teamwork which alludes that PRA can best be done by local teams that use; local language and with only a few outsiders, social scientists, sector specialists, and inclusion of women according to the topic. Optimal ignorance as the fourth principle aims to be efficient in terms of money and time. The last principle is being systematic in its approach which means that methods of collecting data are aimed at being valid and reliable (Cavestro, 2003).

In summary, PRA emphasized the importance of learning together with local communities to make decisions, resolve conflicts, evaluate, monitor, take action, plan, and analyze according to the needs of the local community. This model is appropriate for this study as it seeks to measure the levels of citizen participation in the development planning process.

The study aims to identify at which levels of citizen participation that the community is engaged in the decision-making, consulted in the development process, and the opportunities for collaborating with the county government in development planning.

Democratic theory

The theory was proposed in the 60's and 70's as another choice to liberal democracy and theorized by political scientists in America that included Carole Pateman and Robert Dahl. Democratic theory tells us that citizen participation is undertaken for different purposes and with different underlying goals (Abelson & Eyles, 2004). Democratic theory is distinguished into participative and deliberative democracy by scholars. The former emphasizes the direct involvement of citizens in a variety of policy fields and problems. Participation is a catch-all term to encompass a huge variety of means of individuals participating in collective decision-making and public choices (Cohen, 2007).

Citizen participation scholars (Fiorino, 1990; Laird, 1993) evaluate the process of citizen participation through the lens of democratic theory. Fiorino (1990) believes that the notion of citizen participation fundamentally needs to come from the foundations of democracy. A globe where people lose their rights to be involved in the social decisions that affect them clearly called for new forms of participation (Laird, 1993). According to Fiorino (1990), the processes of participatory needs to measure as process of democracy based on four criteria. One, face-to-face discussions should be used in the process. Secondly, opportunities should be given to locals to participate equally with experts and administration officers. Third, the process should allow amateurs and lay people to work together in decision-making. Lastly, the process should provide direct participation of locals in decision-making.

The democratic theory has been used in past work (Fiorino, 1990; Laird, 1993). These scholars used the democratic theory in assessing citizen participation mechanisms. For instance, Fiorino assessed five institutional approaches against the four criteria. These are public surveys, initiatives, public hearings, and negotiated citizen review panels and rule making. Laird (1993), on the other hand, proposed that there was need for new categories of participation. That is, participatory analysis that involves participation forms that meet democratic criteria and emphasize the significance of learning among locals. The different types of participatory analysis are most appropriate to different forms of problems in policy.

The theory has been used in past studies that have focused on citizen participation phenomenon. For instance, Gitegi and Iravo (2016) study on the factors affecting citizen participation in effective devolved governance in Kenya and Nyotah (2012) study on citizen participation in the selection of public officers. This theory then becomes useful for this study as it seeks to examine citizen engagement at the county level by examining the influence of community mobilization, material resources allocation, human resources allocation, financial resources allocation, and county administration attitudes on citizen participation.

Empirical Literature Review

Community Mobilization and Citizen Participation

In China, Ma and Hu (2011) conducted a study on Public consultation during prophase of master planning: Practice and exploration in Chaohu City. The study found that online forums were an important method of public consultation during the early phase of master planning in Chaohu City. Such forums can enable users not only to maintain a number of ties cheaply and easily but also to create large and diffuse networks of relationships. According to Zhao, Lin and Derudder (2018) public participation in the network society can involve a large number of actors, including experts, planners, and citizens. New tools for information dissemination, such as the Internet and social media, have overcome spatial and temporal communication limits among users and has eliminated discrimination caused by gender, age, wealth, and ethnicity associated with face-to-face communications.

In Isiolo County, ward administrators and sub-county administrators are the main conduit of information to communities at the lowest level. The county administration also uses radio to send development information along with using the county website. Other modes of communication are press releases, notice boards, and newspaper adverts. County communication and county disclosure policies are used in Makueni County which aims at providing the communities with clear, timely, accurate, and complete information on its initiatives, policies, services, and programmes (Gitegi & Iravo, 2016).

In Nairobi County, Ketoyo (2017) conducted a research on influence of public participation on the implementation of county government funded projects and revealed that in many occasions, it was reported in the press that governors have invited citizens to barazas for unstructured public participation sessions and as a result, the outcomes of such deliberations are tilted in one direction to favor the political dimensions. The study also showed that where a governor chooses to do a project and he/she instead tries to legitimize such a project on a baraza or shopping Centre without giving the citizens space to air their views, he could not be said to have consulted the people.

Ronoh, Mulongo, and Kurgat (2018) found that citizen participation organizers in some counties put notices of public forums few days to the day hence majority of the citizens may fail to attend or prepare adequately for the said activity. There is need to put the notice of citizen participation at least two weeks in advance and then keep on reminding the public otherwise majority will forget; the adverts and announcements should be in popular media such as local radio stations, daily newspapers, posters and use of public address to remind the public and mobilize them for the meetings.

An International Committee for the Development of Peoples (ICSP) survey in Mombasa, Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties found that counties had also put in place information, communication technology based platforms especially for mobilizing citizens for forums as well as passing on information. All counties had functional websites. In communicating with the public, counties went beyond the use of social media. Word-of-mouth, radio and television channels and newspapers were also in use. The most prominent social media outlets in use were found to be WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook (ICSP, 2017).

A study by Lakin (2013) found that Local Authority Service Delivery Action Program (LASDAP) experienced low levels of participation by the local community in most instances. The ward administrators were characterized as too distance from the local villager to motivate meaningful priority setting or wide participation. The participation of local communities was constrained by lack of clear mechanisms to mobilize the community to attend meetings on local authorities. The lack of citizen awareness and understanding of the budgeting process was constrained by ineffective participation.

Financial Resources and Citizen Participation

There are two types of cost that should be considered in crafting a participatory process. From the administrative perspective, the first is that of production (Cooper, 1979). Production costs are those that are directly incurred by administrative units or actors in the development and implementation of a participation process. They include staff time, transportation for staff and citizens, facility usage, and development of information carriers such as website acquisition and maintenance. The second costs are incurred by citizens in their efforts to engage in the participation process. Participation costs are incurred for such activities as citizens' travel, transportation, parking, time off from work, and time away from family (Wang & Bryer, 2012).

Ronoh et al. (2018) found that members of the public demand for meals, refreshments, fares, for instance, during citizen participation meetings; this is because majority of the citizen are poor and therefore they feel they must be compensated for leaving their work to attend citizen participation forums. This is also contributed by the organizers of the meetings who host them in few venues that are far apart hence making it expensive for participants to attend and also the meetings don't start on time, meaning they have to hold people for many hours therefore people will demand for refreshments, meals and fares back home.

Omolo (2011) research on policy proposals on citizen engagement in county governance found that the activity of citizen engagement is costly and more so in promoting the ability of the government personnel and communities to accepting participatory approaches. According to Omolo, funding should be a collaborative effort between stakeholders and the county governments should collaborate with the public and private sector in funding citizen participation. Ndlovu, Sibiya, and Giampiccoli (2012) assessment of local community participation in community based tourism concluded that there were high costs incurred with community participation and inadequate financial resources.

According to Esonu and Kavanamur (2011) a lack of capacity which is seen in insufficient financial and human resources are is a significant barrier to successful and effective citizen participation. Wang and Bryer (2012) facilitated a citizen-participation process in a local community in Florida in the United States. Using an inductive content analysis across two online participation data sources, the study develops a set of testable propositions about cost functions of public

participation. The study shows a nonlinear relationship between administrative costs and participation quantity. It also demonstrates no direct relationship between the costs and participation quality.

Human Resources and Citizen Participation

Callahan (2007) paper on the models and methods of citizen participation noted that there was a lack of technical, political, and administrative skills to implement citizen participation in development planning processes, access to experts of human resources and other people who can give the required information. Rifkin and Kangere (2002) opine that there are human, material, and financial resources that can be used to enhance environmental and health situations.

In his study, Sisk (2001) found that one of the challenges to citizen participation was lack of incentives and skills among project staff to encourage them to adopt a participatory approach: Public participation requires a set of skills amongst officials to be able to interact with diverse communities and understand dynamics of the society. Without incentives, officials do not go an extra-mile to involve the public. Lack of community engagement skills also compromises effective public participation.

Kimathi (2016) factors influencing citizen participation in the county integrated development planning process in Meru County revealed that resources to empower rural communities are in most cases inadequate. It is therefore a challenge for local government to capacitate the people in rural communities to participate effectively in the IDP process in their own localities. Fonchingong and Fonjong (2003) research on challenges to active community involvement in tourism development in South Africa found that lack of skill and expertise from the management was the main problem that obstructed community participation. A World Bank report on citizen participation in Kenya noted that processes of public engagement require an investment of resources, such as, dedicated staff time (World Bank, 2013).

Material Resources and Citizen Participation

According to Fung (2006), participatory methods often use educational background material and are designed to fostering the exchange of reasons, perspectives, and experiences and creating deliberation. For example, the use and translations of material resources as such as plans, maps, videos, and sketches. Lachapelle and Shanaha (2010) opined that there was a need to develop context-specific training and comprehensive material to effectively prepare public officials and locals for board governance and public service.

In Cambodia, Kamijo and Huang (2016) examined public involvement by applying quantitative text analysis to the minutes from the meetings of a bridge project in Cambodia. Results of the analysis showed that the discussion about the environmental impacts and alternatives analysis was limited. Their study concluded that understandable meeting materials were a key component to improve public involvement. In Ghana, Abdulai (2015) study on participation revealed that there was no access to key materials in a timely fashion which affected citizen engagement in legislative processes.

In their study, Ronoh et al. (2018) found that there are no designated or fixed venues for citizen participation and majority of the public cannot be reached because of their inaccessibility or inability to locate the venue. The findings also revealed that there are no designated or fixed venues for citizen participation and majority of the public cannot be reached because of their inaccessibility or inability to locate the venue. This has also contributed to the low attendance of citizen participation forums because most county governments and county assemblies hold their citizen participation forums in place that sometimes are not well known and sometimes they keep on changing venues leaving the public not knowing where to go.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research design was adopted for this research. Descriptive research design's objective is to give a snapshot of people, situations, or events. Descriptive research design defines the target population, how these people were selected, and how information is to be gathered from this population (Krueger & Neuman, 2006). This design was selected for this study as it sought to describe the administrative challenges facing citizen participation in development planning process in Wajir County.

The target population for this study was 377 respondents. This population was acquired from the Member of county Assemblies (MCA) Offices in each of the four administrative wards; Wagberi, Township, Barwaqo, and Khorof/Harar of Wajir East Constituency and constituted the sampling frame. The study used purposive sampling to select Wajir East Constituency. Wajir East was selected due to its cosmopolitan composition of the population. Stratified random sampling

was used to sample the targeted population. In stratified random sampling techniques, the population is categorized into groups that represent similar features. In this case, the strata were based on the administrative wards in Wajir East Constituency. The sample size was achieved by using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size table (Appendix 3) to determine the sample size for the study as 191 respondents. The study used a questionnaire as a data collection tool for quantitative data.

Descriptive statistics was the first step of analysis and comprised of analyzing the data using frequencies and percentages for the categorical data (demographic information). Means and standard deviation was used to analyse the interval data (Likert scale questions). Correlation and multiple regression analysis were used to analyse the association and direction of the relationship between independent and dependent variables respectively. The data was interpreted and presented in tables and charts.

6. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

A multiple linear regression model shows the relationship between the dependent variable and multiple (two or more) independent variables. The overall variance explained by the model (R^2) as well as the unique contribution (strength and direction) of each independent variable can be obtained.

Model Summary

Table 1 presents the model summary from the multiple regression analysis which shows the coefficient of determination (R^2) is 0.326 which means that the model (material resources, financial resources, community mobilization, human resources) explains 32.6 % of the change in citizen participation.

Table 1: Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.571 ^a	.326	.249	.42580

a. Predictors: (Constant), Material Availability, Facilitation Costs, Social Media, Skills, Budget Allocation, Perceptions, Baraza, Fund Disbursement, Leadership, Material Access, Materials Adequacy, Mass media

ANOVA

The results from the ANOVA show that the significance value was less than 0.05 ($p = 0.000$) which means that the model is significant in explaining the effect of study sub-variables on citizen participation as seen in Table 2.

Table 2: ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	9.133	12	.761	4.198	.000 ^b
Residual	18.855	104	.181		
Total	27.989	116			

a. Dependent Variable: Citizen Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Material Availability, Facilitation Costs, Social Media, Skills, Budget Allocation, Perceptions, Baraza, Fund Disbursement, Leadership, Material Access, Materials Adequacy, Mass media

Regression Coefficients

The regression coefficients results show the beta values for each of the sub-variables and their influence on citizen participation in Table 4.20. The findings indicate that facilitation costs ($\beta = 0.196$, $p = 0.000$), budget allocation ($\beta = 0.104$, $p = 0.007$), and skills ($\beta = 0.117$, $p = 0.014$) had positive and significant effect on citizen participation in Wajir East Constituency. The findings suggest that the sub-variables Baraza, mass media, social media, perceptions, leadership, materials adequacy, material access, and material availability did not have any association with citizen participation in the development planning in Wajir East Constituency.

Table 3: Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.972	.278		3.500	.001
Baraza	.086	.050	.167	1.729	.087
Mass media	.002	.048	.006	.052	.959
Social Media	-.048	.050	-.088	-.971	.334
Facilitation Costs	.196	.053	.352	3.728	.000
Budget Allocation	.104	.038	.232	2.751	.007
Fund Disbursement	-.014	.058	-.023	-.245	.807
Skills	.117	.047	.242	2.490	.014
Perceptions	.030	.052	.052	.574	.567
Leadership	-.038	.049	-.075	-.773	.441
Materials Adequacy	-.021	.053	-.039	-.385	.701
Material Access	.101	.056	.172	1.809	.073
Material Availability	.040	.048	.080	.835	.406

a. Dependent Variable: Citizen Participation

The findings suggest that the skills of citizen participation staff at the county levels were critical in facilitating the participation of citizens in development planning. The skills to plan, organize, and control the participation processes and protocols contribute to the successful participation of citizens in these forums. Providing information to and developing the technical skills of participants is considered essential for effective public participation (Calland & Nakhoda, 2012).

The administrative skills to conduct citizen participation were a challenge for Wajir East constituency. The findings indicate that the respondents felt that the citizen participation officers did not have good training skills. The public needs to be trained and empowered to have meaningful participation. The lack of these skills among county staff to empower the citizens means that this was a challenge to their participation. Another challenge was that the county staff did not have effective organizing skills. This was a challenge in terms of mobilizing and organizing the citizens to participate in development planning.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The community mobilization sub variable (mass media) had a significant effect on decision making component of citizen participation in development planning. The results indicate respondents agreed that the radio provided useful information on the agenda for citizen participation and also that radio was used to transmit information on the timing of citizen participation schedules. The study concludes that the accessibility and availability of the radio makes it a suitable medium to mobilize the community for citizen participation in development planning.

In reference to the financial resources, the results indicate that facilitation costs and budget allocation as sub variables for financial resources had a significant effect on decision making and collaboration sub variables of citizen participation. The study therefore concludes that allocating money for facilitating costs for citizen participation had a positive effect on the public's participation in the development planning process.

In terms of the human resources, the findings show a significant effect of skills of county officials and perceptions of county officials with consultation and decision making sub variables of citizen participation. The study therefore concludes that public participation officers should have the requisite planning, organizing, and mobilization skills in order for the community to participate in the development process when consulting and engaging the community in decision making.

In regard to material resources, the findings show a significant and positive effect of material availability on decision making sub variable of citizen participation. Further, the findings indicate that there was no significant effect of the material resources sub-variables (material adequacy, and material access) on any of the citizen participation sub variables. The study therefore concludes that availability of material resources is important to inform and educate the community on the development planning process. The study further concludes that access and adequacy of material resources is dependent on financial resources allocated and disbursed for citizen engagement in development planning.

The study found that mass media, specifically the radio, was ranked as the most used and influential channel for community mobilization towards citizen participation in development planning in Wajir East Constituency. The findings indicated that mass media had positive effects on decision-making and consultation and therefore the county officials should mobilize the community through radio channels which are present and accessible to the community, especially vernacular radio stations. In addition, the county government should use barazas to consult the community in development planning since the County has well established Ward Administration Offices manned by Ward Administration Officers in each of the wards in the county.

The findings showed that facilitation costs were the most important factor among financial resources sub variables to influence citizen participation. The study therefore recommends that the Wajir County government should enhance facilitating costs associated with citizen participation by evaluating current procedures and practices in providing facilitation cost and filling the existing loopholes to make sure money for these costs is actually used for this purpose.

The results show that public officials' skills were the most important human resource sub-variable to influence citizen participation through consultations and decision making. The study therefore recommends Wajir County government to continuously train public participation officers on communication, listening, and planning skills to effectively and efficiently organize citizen participation in the county. The communication and listening skills will allow the officials to empathize and incorporate ideas and opinions of the public.

The study found that physical facilities such as venues and locations of conducting engagement between the county government and its public were barriers to citizen participation. The study recommends that the Wajir County government should improve on the allocation of funds to procure material resources for citizen participation. The allocation of these funds should be specific on the costs and budget items for citizen participation and the disbursement of these funds should also be monitored.

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