

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CDF FUNDED PROJECTS IN KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: This study sought to determine the influence of community participation on the implementation of CDF funded projects. The target population comprised of 159 projects that had been undertaken using CDF in both public educational institutions and public health centers within the period between 2013 to 2017. Questionnaires were used for the purpose of collecting primary data. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The study established that community participation had a positive and significant influence on the implementation CDF funded projects in Kericho County, Kenya. The study concludes that community participation during implementation of CDF funded projects is a vital as it leads to better outcomes for all stakeholders, community ownership. Community participation is crucial to the long-term success of project implementation. Therefore, the study recommends that strict investigation of people involved in projects to be done to guarantee proper presentation of the community members in order to implement a project that meets their needs.

Keywords: Community Participation, Project Implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

A project according to Shanks (2012) is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service, or result. Maina (2013) observe that resources put into project implementation occasionally get directed to other personal initiatives at the expense of the community development interventions, culminating into numerous stalled projects. Bushbait and Cunningham (2012) indicate that projects are designed, planned and implemented in tandem with the sequence displayed by the project cycle.

Hornstein (2015) argue that management practices in projects are important because the management define the what is required of the work, scope of the work, allocation of required resources, execution process planning, monitor work progress and amend changes form the initial plan that might arise during project implementation. Yusuf, Gunasekaran and Abthorpe (2014) observe that project implementation was a delicate undertaking that must be all- inclusive to realize intended project outcomes and that the project manager ought to understand the major factors that are important in implementing projects successfully.

According to Eadie, Browne, Odeyinka, McKeown and McNiff (2013) implementing a project is seen to be more of a challenge compared to other activities in the project and all activities necessary to successful implementation need to be scheduled. CDF Act (2003) stipulates that project management committee must be community driven to ensure project benefits cut across all section. Loiza and Chestit (2014) observe that community participation is paramount in successful implementation of CDF projects, and that many projects fail because of lack of adequate participation of the community.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Ojiako, Ashleigh, Chipulu and Maguire (2011) observe that the implementation of CDF projects takes place in the context of the influence of those who are in power and under uncertain environmental conditions mostly due to change in politics who decide on the way projects should be carried out within the constituency which in most cases does not reflect the

needs of the clients. Also authors note that the government's planning is conducted within the context of an integrated planning framework and budgeting cycle. This poses a challenge in implementing long term projects that were initiated before another budget is done and approved. Ochieng and Ruth (2013) observe that despite so many CDF projects are carried out to change the standards of members of society. However, in Kericho County, very few projects which have been initiated are successfully implemented. In addition, these projects have been of poor quality despite huge amounts of cash invested.

Mwangi (2013) study examined fund management practices affects the financial performance of CDF funded water projects in Kenya in Molo constituency, Nakuru County and revealed a strong positive relationship between the fund management practices. However, the study used purposive sampling method which does not guarantee case representativeness. Gathoni and Ngugi (2016) study investigated drivers of effective project performance in national government constituency development funded projects in Kiambu County, Kenya and observed that the stakeholders are barely updated on various CDF project progress. Nevertheless, the study used a case study which involves a small sample. Based on the above stated studies, it is evident that none of the study looked at how community participation influences the implementation of CDF funded projects in Ainamoi Constituency, Kericho County, Kenya which was the focus of the study.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Wamugu and Ogollah (2017) studied on the role of stakeholders' participation on the performance of constituency development fund projects in Mathira East constituency in Kenya. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The researcher relied on a target population of 148, 847 community members in Mathira Constituency and used the Krejcie & Morgan table to determine the sample size. Stratified random sampling was employed using the administrative ward assembly units as the strata. The study recommended the improvement of the community participation model being used in the constituency and particularly the methods used for information sharing for awareness creation, more civic education forums, and consideration of the interest of special interest groups and checking of political interference.

A study carried out by Turkulainen, Aaltonen and Lohikoski (2015) on the management of project stakeholder communication looking at the Qstock festival case. The data was gathered in September 2014 through semi-structured interviews. The entire management team and most internal stakeholders were interviewed. The study established that management of stakeholders has a positive and significant effect on project implementation.

A study carried out by James (2016) on constituency development fund and project implementation in Butere, Kenya using a case study design and a target population of 135 respondents selected through purposive sampling established that concluded that there is a high influence of fund allocation, disbursement and monitoring on project implementation in Butere, Kenya and the study recommended that the government should increase its budget allocation and there should be separation of powers between fund allocators and implementers to avoid cases where Members of Parliament (MPs) are both fund allocators and play implementation.

Tengan and Aigbavboa (2017) study focused on the extent to which stakeholder engagement and participation in monitoring and evaluation influences the performance of construction projects in Ghana. Data was descriptively analyzed. The study advocates for participatory monitoring and evaluation through stakeholder management at the local government level project delivery. This can be promoted through Community Based Development Project (CBDP) delivery.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employed descriptive research design. The Target Population was all the CDF funded projects in Ainamoi Constituency, spread in the six wards namely Kipchebor, Kapkugerwet, Kipchimchim, Kapsaos, Ainamoi and Kapsoit. According to the Auditor General's report on Ainamoi Constituency of 2015, there are 159 projects that have been undertaken using CDF in both public educational institutions and public health centers within the period between 2013 to 2017. Stratified sampling method was used to sample respondents into 6 strata namely Kipchebor, Kapkugerwet, Kipchimchim, Kapsaos, Ainamoi and Kapsoit so as to ensure that all the constituencies are well represented. A census of 65 respondents was carried out. Questionnaires were used for the purpose of collecting primary data. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse data.

5. FINDINGS

The study sought to establish the influence of community participation in implementation of CDF funded projects in Kericho County, Kenya. The findings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Community Participation and Project Implementation

Statement	M	Sd.Dev
An individual or group of people are given responsibility to drive success in project implementation	3.89	1.21
Implementation of new projects is a collective responsibility that involves all community members	4.17	0.86
Community members are involved in performing activities of project in accordance with project management plan	4.30	0.82
Community members are involved in checking the site of the projects	4.28	0.68
Community members are involved during initiation of new CDF funded projects	4.15	1.13
Aggregate	4.16	0.94

Key: M – Mean; Sd.Dev – Standard Deviation

Source: Survey Data (2018)

The results in Table 1 indicates that the respondents strongly agreed that community participation influence implementation of CDF funded projects in Kericho County, Kenya as indicated by aggregate score of 4.01 and a significance variance of 1.09. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that community members are involved in performing activities of project in accordance with project management plan and community members are involved in checking the site of the projects as shown by mean score of 4.30 and 4.28 respectively with respective significance variance of 0.82 and 0.68. These findings concur with the findings of Wamugu and Ogollah (2017) who found that the improvement of the community participation model being used in the constituency and particularly the methods used for information sharing for awareness creation, more civic education forums, and consideration of the interest of special interest groups and checking of political interference.

Majority of the respondents agreed that implementation of new projects is a collective responsibility that involves all community members, community members are involved during initiation of new CDF funded projects and that an individual or group of people are given responsibility to drive success in project implementation as shown by mean score of 4.17, 4.15 and 3.89 with respective significance variance of 0.86, 1.13 and 1.21. These findings agree with the findings of James (2016) who recommend that the government should increase its budget allocation and there should be separation of powers between fund allocators and implementers to avoid cases where Members of Parliament (MPs) are both fund allocators and play implementation.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that community participation has a positive and significant influence on implementation of CDF funded projects in Kericho County, Kenya. Community participation during implementation of CDF funded projects is a vital as it leads to better outcomes for all stakeholders, community ownership and lower project costs. Community participation is crucial to the long-term success of project implementation. Therefore, the study recommends strict investigation of people involved in projects to be done to guarantee proper presentation of the community members in order to implement a project that meets their needs.

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