

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOGISTICAL MANAGEMENT AND RESULTS ACCEPTABILITY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA FROM 2007 TO 2017

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Abstract: Many elections in emerging democracies are characterized by unpreparedness which leads to irregularities as well as abuse of the process of electioneering. The purpose of this study was to assess the nexus between logistical management and results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. This study was guided by the Theory of Planning. This research used a descriptive research design. The Target Population which was the study unit of observation was made up of 350 IEBC officials and 50 political contestants for the MP and Governors in the 2007, 2013 and 2017 elections. Stratified random sampling technique was applied in sample determination. This study took 30% of the two strata's. The descriptive statistical tools were used in data analysis. This comprised of the mean, standard deviation, frequencies and percentages. Analysis of qualitative data used narrative statements aligned to appropriate thematic fields and outcomes presented in the prose form. The study concluded that, logistical management, had a positive significant influence on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. To improve on logistical management, the electoral body should carry out logistics arrangements early enough for the purposes of meeting the set timelines. IEBC head value chain department should ensure the least time possible is taken to ensure electoral materials reach the expected regions. This should be coupled by carrying out logistics arrangements earlier enough to avoid delays on the elections day. A proper planning by IEBC should be advocated for. Further, IEBC should be transparent in all the processes that are ongoing during the election and should give access to information to all parties involved.

Keywords: Elections, elections cycle, preparedness, acceptability and logistics.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Many elections in emerging democracies are characterized by unpreparedness which leads to irregularities over observance of the laws guiding elections and abuse of the process of electioneering (Vernon, 2017). According to De Jager & Meintjes, (2017) this condition has been linked to the lack of sincere electoral organizations especially in the developing economies. The situation has resulted to outcomes that are unpleasant in various occasions particularly in the African region resulting to unrest and violence (Selolwane & Shale, 2016). Though not sufficient to assure fairness and free elections by themselves, preparedness by electoral institutions is a requirement for credible elections since the total acceptability and legitimacy of any election greatly relies on how prepared is the electoral organization together with the management of the electoral process (Huntington, 2015).

In all democratic states, elections are conducted and supervised by electoral management bodies (EMB). Independent electoral management bodies are by far the most common form. Indeed, of the countries considered in this study, nearly 65 percent have an independent electoral management bodies where by their independence plays a significant role on their levels of preparedness (De Jager & Meintjes, 2017). Some of the areas that requires keen attention in electoral preparedness are elaborated as follows;

Logistical management has been of the major challenge affecting the acceptability of elections results (Sebudubudu, 2015). Three of the challenges on such include inadequate human capital, planning and infrastructure. Consequently, due to the said challenges, measuring efficiency in the usage of resources dedicated for the process of elections is supposed to be carried out because it can be very simple to undertake that it is so important to have an election that justification of any resources dedicated to it is easy for promoting the carrying out of the process, and consequently money and other associated resources are not utilized to optimization. Its key to note that logistics happen to be the major support of election operations, and that is where the capacity is minor in African nations (Poteete, 2015).

Kenyan elections have been characterized by high level of electoral un preparedness (Kegoro, 2013). This has resulted to numerous petitions on all electoral seats and sometimes led to violence. Records have it that after the 2007 bungled general elections, violence ensued that saw 1,100 dead, 3,000 women raped, and over 650,000 people internally displaced (Kamau, 2013). In the 2013 elections, one of the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) main goals was to register 18 million voters all across the country within one month. The Commission managed to register 14.3 million voters out of the targeted 18 million voters. Given the circumstances that most Kenyans live in, it was too ambitious a goal to expect to reach all 18 million within one month. The Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) kits also came in too late. It is instructive to note that the BVR kits were delivered after a government to government procurement after the IEBC procurement process was riddled with controversies attributed to vendor influence. Kenyans in the Diaspora believed they would also participate in this crucial election. They were assured of this by the IEBC. On the contrary, a few months to the election they were let down by the same IEBC. In the final submission during the presidential petition in the 2013 election, George Oraro who was the lead counsel of the petitioner noted that, there were illegalities in compilation of the register, the biometric identification of voters, the transmission of the provisional results and the tallying process. Oraro told the court that there was total failure of the tallying process as prescribed by law and that presiding officers were not part of the verification of results (Musila, 2014).

Machakos County has registered huge number of electoral petitions in the previous elections from the gubernatorial level to the Members of County Assemblies(MCA) (Kangethe, 2019). On the quashed electoral wins, the judges indicated election results declared by the county returning officer failed the constitutional test of verifiability, and that the declaration had no legal basis in most of the major cases. In the 2017 elections Multiple Forms 34B also showed that returning officers did not receive all the polling station results Forms 34A from their respective constituencies. This was significant, as it meant that constituency level tallies were conducted without all polling station results. In one case in the county in the 2017 election, IEBC Returning Officer was cross-examined in Court on allegations that one MP contestant agents were denied access to polling stations and did not sign forms as required (Kamau, 2018).

Based on the above apprehension, it can be alluded that IEBC failed to a certain extent in the management of the elections in the County. It further shows high levels of electoral un preparedness that led to rejection of results by many contestants and the many petitions at the High Court.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Electoral management bodies play a crucial role in the democratisation processes in both countries and one of the ways of achieving this goal is by ensuring their independence from the political process. In many countries, independent Electoral Management Bodies have been championed as a key institutional reform measure to successfully strengthen election integrity. Yet, despite the intuitively appealing assumption that independent electoral management bodies will be better at their task of organizing and monitoring elections in an impartial manner, empirical evidence is mixed.

During the Kenyas 2017 elections lack of updates related to the voter's register audit and the significant problems that arose during mass voter registration and the validity of the register was in significant doubt. This mistrust is compounded by the fact that there was no publicly accessible registration data, including constituency and ward level numbers of registered voters. Further, IEBC was guilty of having flouted procurement rules to favour certain companies' bids for

ballot printing contracts. Other problems included chaotic party primaries, which were marked by rampant disorganization, the absence of party membership lists, untrained officials, allegations of fraud and clear disrespect for voters' choices, and incidents of violence. Further there were no regulations for the use of complementary mechanisms in the case that the electronic results transmission system failed.

These incidents prior to the 2017 general elections portrayed a preparedness challenge by IEBC and this could be the cause of Supreme Court nullifying the elections and having numerous elections petitions in many electoral positions. Machakos County registered huge number of electoral petitions from the governor's level to the Members of County Assemblies. This included one petition for the governor's seat, one for the senator's seat, two for the MCA seat and two for the MP seat. This was associated with the declaration of results which failed the constitutional test of verifiability by the county returning officer. Further, delays during elections and late delivery of elections materials has been reported in many polling stations in the County.

From the foregoing, it is clear that electoral outcomes have been characterised by numerous controversies and petitions due to dissatisfaction by political players, stakeholders and citizens in the management of the electoral process. If nothing is done, these electoral irregularities and malpractices will continue to undermine the credibility of electoral results in Kenya particularly in Machakos County. This study therefore sought to fill the research gap by analysing the influence of logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County.

1.3 Objective of the Study

- i. To assess the influence of logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County?

1.5 Research Hypothesis/ Premise

H₀₁: Logistical management has no statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theory of Planning

Muller (2014) proposed the theory of planning which helps organisations to undertake their work because they provide a fundamental frame of reference. This theory is a singularly erudite contribution to the development of scientific management (Muller, 2014). The term Last Planner refers to the hierarchical chain of planners, where the last planner acts at the interface to execution. Thus, this method concentrates on the detailed planning just before execution, rather than the whole planning process. The method of Last Planner distinguishes planned tasks according to Can, Should and Will modalities. The tasks pushed from the higher planning levels belong to the should category.

One of the assumptions of this theory and which forms the theory gap is that planners are seldom able to achieve their objective and aspirations. Planners during elections often ignore decision-maker's recommendations in favor of the wishes of politically connected stakeholders. Andre (2008) argued that planners were the handmaidens of downtown development interests and seldom really addressed meaningful policy choices. David (2009) findings resonated with the frustration of many planners in their inability to meaningfully address the social and economic issues tearing at the fabric of many nations and institutions.

In look ahead planning the prerequisites of upcoming assignments are actively made ready, in other words, they are transferred to the Can category. This, in fact, is a pull system (Ben, 2008) that is instrumental in ensuring that all the prerequisites are available for the assignments. In conventional project management, the plan pushes tasks to execution; only the should category is recognized. Another principle is to maintain a buffer of tasks, which are sound for each crew. Thus, if the assigned task turns out to be impossible to carry out, the crew can switch to another task. Theoretically interpreted, look ahead planning aims at alignment of plan and situation. "Should" represents the tasks in the plan, and "Can" represents those tasks that realistically will be possible to start in the situation.

Using this theory, planning at electoral management board was evaluated. Planning entailed the general elections date choice and this should be in line with the constitution, planning on trainings and awareness creation, planning on actual election procedures and logistical management among others. Further, implementation of recommendations from various stakeholders to electoral management board will also be evaluated. Adequate planning is required for the purposes of effective trainings of the poll officials and logistical planning. Planning will not be successful if not full backed by the electoral management board, the EMB management and all stakeholders. This therefore led to the introduction of the governance theory which is inclined to organizations internal and external management.

2.2 Logistical Management and Results Acceptability in General Elections

Electoral services and goods are a major part of the election which are very key and expensive (Linz, 2015). Any shortfalls or delays during the process of procuring and distributing the materials needed for election or in-time receipt for the needed services may have critical effects to the election, strongly impacting on the schedule as well as the results. However, procurement not only concerns the purchase of materials polling kits, ballot boxes and so on but as well includes building of infrastructure as well as procuring services. Regarding services, employing an expert for conducting voter trainings and education identification and the hiring of specialists under short term contractual terms, purchasing TV and radio spots, every of those services should be done by the process of procurement. Additionally, various infrastructural kinds can be needed, for example software, hardware equipment, vehicles, furniture, tools of communication and buildings refurbishments (Lagos, 2016).

Fatton (2016) carried a study on logistical challenges facing EMB during elections in Switzerland. Data was collected from both the EMB officials and the civil society groups. This study revealed that procurement is not separated instead it is a constant process for complexity of variables that basically includes a number of steps. Various parties and stakeholders, contractual and legal consequence and obligations. As the procurement of elections makes use of donor and public funds, principles, procedures and the rules of public procurement are supposed to be followed and observed strictly for purposes of safeguarding the employment of such kind of funds. Those kind of rules are going to govern the entire procurement process of the services and goods and also the contracts arising from the same. The study concluded that an process of electoral procurement focuses on delivery of every service of good requested, in the quantities demanded, quality and the standards given in the timelines established for a price agreed at. The study was based in a developed country with modern infrastructures. In Kenya some electoral regions don't have roads and sometimes affected by natural calamities such as floods. This study did not address such logistical challenges.

Vernon (2017) revealed that quality necessities are supposed to be included in the plans of procuring, since they establish the key aspects counting what is supposed to be sourced, suitable approaches and so on. The general project implementation is going to rely heavily on getting the appropriate items for the task, that is, the suitable quality. For quality concerns, the plans of procurement are supposed to consider for example repercussions of standard or quality levels on accessible equipment or products and the approachable suppliers; relationships between time and costs, that is, the greater the requirement in terms of quality, the higher the costs and the likeliness of timelines to rise, consideration-ns regarding required testing; considerations regarding substitutable solutions; as well as specifications on quality like standards, sizes, materials, performance, so as to cut down on risks that could occur. The study only majored in investigating the quality of electoral materials. It failed to show the preparedness aspect which will be done in this study.

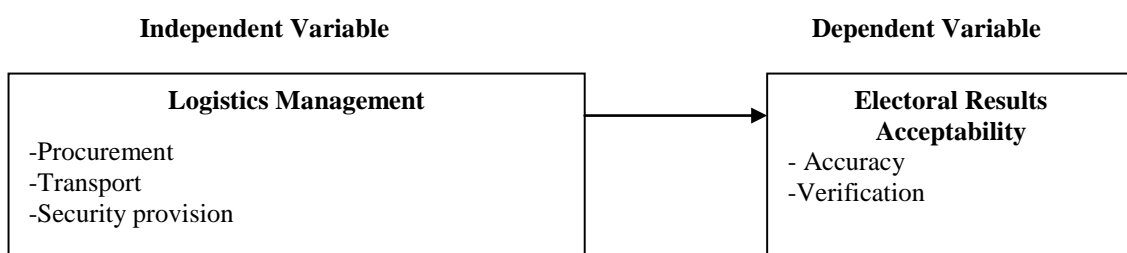
Musila (2014) analysed in electoral logistical challenges for democracies in the sub Saharan Africa. This study revealed that a process of electoral procurement can encounter some various difficulties; Timely distribution of funds present for purposes of procurement, Recruiting the unit of procurement with staff who are competent. Staff are supposed to have clarity of the services and the materials needed. The survey made a recommendation that where consultants are foreign serving the unit of procurement, they are supposed to be having particular knowledge of the nation like the requirements of language, water resistant, batteries that are log lasting or solar energy or generators in areas that are remote and much more; Cooperation amongst different players include local stakeholders particularly EMB, and comprising global organizations where offering technical aid to the process of procurement; Transparent and advance development of specifications and requirements for the services and goods for the electoral process guaranteeing confidence to very stakeholders of the cost effectiveness and appropriateness of the items procured. The findings of the study are so compatible with the context of Africa. This study will investigate logistics further but narrowed down to the Kenyan context.

Bean (2014) in his study on logistical and managerial challenges facing the electoral body in South Africa stated that procurement is supposed to make sure of timely solicitation on offers, cost effectiveness of the purchases and timely delivery of materials with regard to the quality required. Based on that, the officers of procurement are supposed to be supported in developing the required supply markets by researching, and comprise such kind of factors as well as their interactions in equivalent plans of procurement. A conclusion for the research was that quality, cost and time are the best in defining the value for money and are the same ones to be considered important in the procurement planning for the materials needed for election. Every of those influences and interrelates the rest 2, ending with a relations matrix that requires factoring from the beginning at the stage of planning. South Africa is ahead of Kenya in terms development, this study will therefore give more insight on what is the current state in the less developed economies.

In Uganda Kenneth (2015) analysed the major determinants of cost variance in electoral procurement. This study revealed that according to pricing and costs, it is necessary that during the electoral process a substantial section of sourced materials could be of low technology and comparatively cheap to produce, therefore less cost “a priori”. Nevertheless, the need and urgency for advanced response as well as excess consolidation potential set it that for particular election items just limited figure of specified suppliers which may respond on such conditions are present. One of major gaps in this study is that when there are right timelines, the purchaser becomes very reliant on the suppliers, whereas suppliers should employ much resources as well as efforts in order to respond and consequently ending up to dramatic rise on prices. This study will help to give an insight on the best times that IEBC should purchase its electoral materials.

Ossege (2015) analysed the timing factor on electoral procurement in Kenya. The nature of the research was descriptive and the study respondents were IEBC officials. The study revealed that timing happens to be a key factor in the procurement process since it impacts on the whole implementation of the project and overall costs, the process’ credibility and finally the outcomes. Here, there is no consideration of time as being time for delivery but as well time required for continued inland disbursement, particularly where goods happen to be consolidated from the whole world, and the required time for staff mobilization and the preparedness. This research made a conclusion that the enhancements of the system, say, new systems of IT and the systems of registration of voters are supposed to focus on starting in advance in the period of post- election for maximizing the testing time, cultural acceptance, timing and training, as well as institutionalized incorporation of the answers. Every of those is going to impact greatly on solution sustainability. This study was carried at the IEBC head offices and this would not give a clear picture on the actual places that voting takes place. This study was carried at Machakos County and gave a clear picture on what happens during elections on the ground.

2.3 Conceptual Framework



3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

For purposes of this research, descriptive research design was applied. Base on Mugenda and Mugenda’s notion in (2012), the design gives solutions to problems like; what methods to be applied for data gathering, what type of tools and strategies of sampling are going to be applied and the way to handle constraints to do with costs and time.

3.2 Target Population

The population of the study comprised of 350 IEBC official and 50 political contestants for the MP and Governors in the 2007, 2013 and 2017. The research targets population that formed the observation unit who were the IEBC officials working at Machakos County and all the contestants in MP and Governors seats in the 2007, 2013 and 2017 elections in the County.

3.3 Sample Design

Sampling happens where part of the population elements is used in order for the researcher to draw conclusion from them concerning the overall.

Table 1: Sample Size

Target Population	Frequency	Sample ratio	Sample size
IEBC officials	350	0.3	105
Political Seats Contestants	50	0.3	15
Total	400	0.3	120

Schindler and Cooper in (2011), pointed out that a sample that is representative is the one that is 10 per cent or above of that population. The technique of stratified random sampling can be employed where there is no homogeneity of the targeted population and may be classified into stratas and groups to get a sample that is representative. This research therefore took 30% of the two strata's. This formed the study unit of analysis. Generally, the size of the sample had 120 respondents picked by stratified random sampling method.

3.4 Data Analysis and Presentation

The nature of the collected data was qualitative and quantitative. The descriptive statistical tools aided in data description and determining the level used. Analysis was carried out qualitatively and quantitatively through application of the descriptive statistics. This comprised of standard deviation, percentages, frequencies and the mean. Pie charts, figures and tables were applied in presentation of outcomes. Analysis of qualitative data used narratives statements aligned to appropriate thematic fields and outcomes presented in the prose form. To measure the relationship's strength amongst variables, a multiple regression analysis was conducted in order to measure the effects of electoral preparedness over outcomes acceptability during the general elections.

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Logistical Management and Results Acceptability

The study sought to assess the influence of logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. The study findings are presented as follows.

4.1.1: Efficiency with IEBC Logistic Department

Participants were required to rate the efficiency with IEBC logistic department during election.

Table 1: Efficiency with IEBC Logistic Department

Logistic Department Rating	Frequency	Percentage
Very Efficient	21	22.4
Efficient	66	69.2
Not efficient at all	8	8.4
Total	95	100.0

Results in the table above show that majority of the respondents (69.2%) indicate that the IEBC logistic department during election was efficient, 22.4% of the respondents indicated that the IEBC logistics very efficient while 8.4% of the respondents indicated that the IEBC logistics during last election were not efficient at all. This implies that IEBC logistics during last election were efficient. High levels of efficiency was realized because materials are well supplied, materials were dispatched early enough though in some instances where the commission had hired incompetent persons to handle logistics at the constituency level it became hectic and that's the reason some areas experienced some delays.

4.1.2 Logistical Challenges

Participants were required to indicate some of the major logistical challenges they faced during elections time. The study revealed that participants encountered the following challenges: lack of enough refreshments during the election period, some of the election materials arriving late on the eve of the election, arriving at the polling stations at night and lack of

comfort during the night, inadequate time to hire qualified personnel, inadequate resources to handle emergencies, inadequate staff at supply chain and IEBC not providing boarding facilities for trainees coming from far places and inadequate space to accommodate the high number of trainees. The findings are in line with Linz (2015) to a 40% who indicated that any shortfalls or delays during the process of procuring and distributing the materials needed for election or in-time receipt for the needed services may have critical effects to the election, strongly impacting on the schedule as well as the results

On the logistic challenge, one of Returning Officer at Machakos IEBC stated *“The challenge I encountered was in returning the materials in black box. Its hectic and people receiving the materials are few”* (Returning Officer IEBC.3.8.2019)

4.1.3 What IEBC Logistical Management Should Do in Future

On challenges faced, results show that IEBC did not promptly overcome the challenge in other words it took a while before the issues were addressed. The head office should reorganize the process by parking all the materials well. The head office should ensure the least time possible is taken to ensure electoral materials reaches the expected regions. Further, there should be proper communication channel between the head office and the logistic players. The findings concur with the findings of Muteu (2015) to a 75% who revealed that EMB Staff are supposed to have clarity of the services and the materials needed. Further they are supposed to be having particular knowledge of the nation like the requirements of language, water resistant, batteries that are log lasting or solar energy or generators in areas that are remote and much more; Cooperation amongst different players include local stakeholders.

One member of the county assembly suggested *“The IEBC logistics department should be devolved. Further, the ballots papers and ballot boxes should be delivered in good time. IEBC should also prepare for hitches brought about by weather and other un foreseen calamities”*. (Candidate One.2.8.2019)

4.1.4 Effect of Logistical Challenges on Results Acceptability

The study established the following regarding statements concerning the logistical management during previous elections period.

Table 2: Statements Concerning the Logistical Management

Statements	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
The budget for materials needed for election are supposed to be approximated earlier and be realistic	95	1.00	5.00	4.73	0.64
Shortfall or delay on materials distribution or logistics leads to critical implications towards the rest of the elections schedule	95	1.00	5.00	4.44	0.92
Poor logistical management in IEBC will potentially affecting the outcome of the election process	95	1.00	5.00	4.40	0.91
Time and quality are crucial factors in planning and procurement of election materials	95	1.00	5.00	4.68	0.77

Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the budget for materials needed for election are supposed to be approximated earlier and be realistic ($M = 4.73$ $SD = 0.64$), time and quality are crucial factors in planning and procurement of election materials ($M = 4.68$ $SD = 0.77$) other agreed that Shortfall or delay on materials distribution or logistics leads to critical implications towards the rest of the elections schedule ($M = 4.44$ $SD = 0.92$) and that poor logistical management in IEBC will potentially affecting the outcome of the election process ($M = 4.40$ $SD = 0.91$). The above findings to a 70% are in support of the study findings by Kaikara (2015), the study revealed that timing happens to be a key factor in the procurement process since it impacts on the whole implementation of the project and overall costs, the process' credibility and finally the outcomes.

Delay in returning or going to the tallying center can cause mishandling the results because they can be tempered with.

One member of the National Assembly further stated *“Logistical challenges affect results acceptability whereby citizens view the delay as a tactic to alter the outcomes of the election. Logistical challenges lead to results taking too long before announcing or reach the relevant destination therefore leading to rise in anxiety and people assumes that the results are being manipulated”*. (Candidate Two. 1.7.8.2019)

4.1.5 Procurement Process

The study established the following on the statements regarding procurement management.

Table 3: Statements Relating to Procurement Management

Statements	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
Procurement department should ensure that the solicitation of quotes or bids is timely	95	1.00	5.00	4.60	0.73
purchases should be cost-effective and materials should be delivered on time	95	1.00	5.00	4.77	0.65
Cumbersome or poorly designed tendering processes are particularly vulnerable to manipulation	95	1.00	5.00	4.31	1.01
Procurement Support can assist with transparent tendering processes when given sufficient lead time	95	1.00	5.00	4.33	0.84

Majority of the respondents agreed that procurement department should ensure that the solicitation of quotes or bids is timely ($M = 4.60$ $SD = 0.73$) purchases should be cost-effective and materials should be delivered on time ($M = 4.77$ $SD = 0.65$). Further the study research established that procurement support can assist with transparent tendering processes when given sufficient lead time ($M = 4.33$ $SD = 0.84$) and that cumbersome or poorly designed tendering processes are particularly vulnerable to manipulation ($M = 4.31$ $SD = 0.84$). The above findings are in support of the study findings by Vernon (2015) to 55% who asserts that quality; cost and time are the best in defining the value for money and are the same ones to be considered important in the procurement planning for the materials needed for election.

4.1.6 Ways through Which IEBC Can Improve on Logistical Management

IEBC can improve on logistical management through hiring of competent logistical companies that have experience in the logistics world. Further IEBC should carry out logistic planning early enough and meeting the set timelines, do proper planning and allocating enough resources in terms of funding in their activities, planning ahead of time, mapping the supply route and hiring the suitable human resource.

4.2 Correlation Analysis

In this study correlation was used to assess the relationship between the dependent variable on the four independent variables. The correlation coefficients for each variable are represented as follows in Table 4.

Table 4: Correlations Coefficient Table

		Results Acceptability	Logistical Management
Results Acceptability	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.633
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.	.002
	N	95	95
Logistical Management	Correlation Coefficient	.633	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.002	.
	N	95	95

The study found strong positive correlation between results acceptability and logistical management, as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.633, the significant value was 0.002 which is less than 0.05

4.3 Regression coefficient

Table 5: Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1 (Constant)	1.289	.345		3.731	.000
Logistical Management X_1	.871	.120	.477	7.252	.000

The regression equation appears as follows:

$$Y = 1.289 + 0.871X_1$$

Constant = 1.289. A unit change in logistical management would enhance the acceptability in general elections by a factor of 0.871.

4.4 Hypothesis Testing

H_{01} : Logistical management has no statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections. On comparing the critical value and the calculated value ($1.96 < 7.252$) the calculated value was greater than the critical value, which led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. The study therefore failed to reject the alternate hypothesis which stated that logistical management has a statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections.

5. CONCLUSION

The objective of the study was to assess the influence of logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. This study has established poor logistical management during elections in Machakos County contrary to the Theory of Planning (Muller, 2014) which states that logistic planning should be done before general elections for the activities to conform to the electoral laws. This entails timely delivery of ballots, ballot boxes, data transmission gadgets and adequate human resource among others. Conformity to the guidance of Planning Theory might help Machakos County to greater extent in planning and executing elections logistics.

The study concludes that preparedness had a positive significant influence in logistical management on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. However, IEBC encountered the several challenges such as lack of enough refreshments during the election period and election materials arriving late on the eve of the election. Other challenges included IEBC staff arriving at the polling stations at night and lack of comfort during the night. The electoral body had always had inadequate time to hire qualified personnel coupled with inadequate resources to handle emergencies and inadequate staff at supply.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study therefore recommends that IEBC should carry out logistics arrangement early enough for the purposes of meeting the set timelines. IEBC head value chain department should ensure the least time possible is taken to ensure electoral materials reaches the expected regions. Further, there should be proper communication channel between the head office and the regional offices. Further, proper planning should be done and allocating enough resources in terms of funding the logistical activities.

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