

# THE NEXUS BETWEEN ELECTIONS STAKEHOLDER'S INVOLVEMENT AND RESULTS ACCEPTABILITY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA FROM 2007 TO 2017

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to analyse the nexus between elections stakeholder's involvement and results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. This study was guided by the Contemporary Governance Theory. This research used a descriptive research design. The Target Population which was the study unit of observation was made up 350 IEBC official 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. This study utilized a questionnaire and an interview guide to collect primary data. Coding of the data was done by the use of SPSS version 23 for enabling grouping of responses given in a number of classes. Analysis of qualitative data used narratives statements aligned to appropriate thematic fields and outcomes presented in the prose form. The study concluded that stakeholder's involvement had a positive significant influence on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. Among the stakeholder's involved included political parties and their leaders, NGOs, Accredited media accredited observers, county administration and security agents. Stakeholder participation helped in easing the transmission of election and dissemination of election process information. The study recommended that stakeholders should be involved in all stages of election process. Further, IEBC should enhance their public participation avenues and there should be a continuous and a regular update.

**Keywords:** elections stakeholder's involvement, general elections, IEBC.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

When votes are cast in an election and a candidate or a party is declared winner, losers can react in three different ways: they can accept election results, they can challenge the results, or they can turn against democracy (Shale, 2015). The acceptance of results can be illustrated by graceful losers conceding defeat after razor-thin margins, by shrugs of resignation after the opponents have obtained clear victories or by candidates simply accepting their fate in a process they see as common and natural. The credibility of the electoral process is therefore both a means and a necessity to peaceful and stable democracy; essentially, fair competitive elections remain a fodder crop to maturing democracy (Tilly, 2016).

Throughout the electoral process, continuous and inclusive dialogue among the election's stakeholders can be helpful in attenuating tensions that arise during elections (Parry & Moran, 2014). Countries like Ghana's transformation into a stable democracy has been one of Africa's success stakeholders have contributed to broad acceptance of the results of recent elections (Obi, 2017). In recent years, more and more countries have embarked on adequate preparedness especially with the adoption of electronic voting machines. India is moving towards full electronic voting, while in Brazil electronic voting is the only way for electors to cast their vote. In other countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands

electronic voting is used alongside traditional manual voting. All these countries have conducted credible elections based on the level of preparedness by the electoral management bodies (Farrell, 2017).

In America and majority of the European Countries the electoral management bodies have embarked on expanding civic and democratic spaces which has been supported by deepening the role of the media and promoting on of initiatives that bring together regional civil societies, publics and political groups in joint analyses, researches, debates and sharing of relevant experiences (Abbinck & Hesselink, 2015). Further electoral management bodies have improved their relations with donors, particularly those involved in elections support, to facilitate the financing of activities related to elections, including the provision of voter and civic education. In Iraq, the United Nations operations advisers have been advising the electoral officials on the development of operational plans for the preparation, distribution and retrieval of electoral materials including ballots, ballot boxes and forms. This has helped develop cascade training programmes for all polling officials including, reconciliation and counting procedures, and supported the development of standardized manuals (Farrell, 2017).

In Africa, elections have gained momentum over the last twenty years since the wave of democratization began sweeping across the continent in the early 1990s, which resulted in multi-party elections in many countries (Mokgala, 2015). However, Parry (2014) has observed, the lack of autonomy of electoral management bodies from the government in some African countries is one of the major challenges to the preparedness of the electoral process in the continent. It is important to note at this point that the independence of electoral management bodies, though not in itself a guarantee of free and fair elections, determines to a large extent the overall legitimacy and acceptability of an elected government by the electorate (Shale, 2017).

Most African democracies have therefore suffered retrogression or stagnation as a result of these failed elections (Sebudubudu, 2015). Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire have all suffered serious challenges with their elections, affecting the consolidation of democracy in these countries. Most electoral management bodies in Africa lacked the needed public trust and confidence due to their past records of unpreparedness, electoral fraud and political manipulations (Obi, 2017). In Nigeria the electoral mechanism had gone rusty for over a decade (Obi, 2017). Contestants have always complained about the voters register as major challenge. The severe logistical problems experienced on Election Day, the weak capacity of electoral management bodies had issues of time and resources constraints. Electoral officials make mistakes or fail to follow proper procedures on elections day, casting doubt on the credibility of the election process (Selolwane & Shale, 2016). In South Africa, the electoral body has outlined measures to build public confidence in the electoral process upon its inauguration (Tilly, 2016). The compilation of new voter's register, training of polling officials and party agents, the accreditation of domestic and international observers, the formation of an independent electoral management body among others were measures that has been instituted to build confidence in the electoral process.

In Kenya 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).

In August 8 2017, Kenyans voted for a new president. More than 15 million people cast their vote, eventually leading to a victory for incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta, who secured 54 percent (Kamau, 2018). His main competitor, Raila Odinga, received almost 45 percent of the vote. It was the first time Kenya fully used electronic identification system because, during previous elections, the electoral commission was often accusations of stealing votes. Odinga the opposition party leader took his allegations of election fraud to the Kenyan Supreme Court, eventually leading to the court nullifying the result. According to the Supreme Court, the board overseeing the 2017 vote did not have all the tally forms when they announced results. It also said that some forms lacked security features such as watermarks, signatures or serial

numbers, which called their authenticity into question. There were also several problems with the electronic voting system. The Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) refused the court full access to its computer system, which meant the opposition's claims of hacking could not be proved or disproved. On other electoral seats, the Judiciary received petitions of 31 out of 47 for the Governors position. Further a total of 277 cases had been lodged challenging outcomes of senate seats, women representative and members of parliament (Kangethe, 2019).

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

Elections are becoming a basic feature in Africa's political scene. It is key to recognize the impossibility of a perfect electoral system and the fact that irregularities still happen in nations with very established democratic elections. Africa's situation is disturbing and requires thoughtful reforms in case we expect genuine elections and democratic elections. Particularly, the absence of independence and being unprepared is the causative for failure of attaining their set objectives. This is increased nature of Africa's politics whereby some other leaders are seeking to be in power for their entire life, a phenomenon referred to as the 'Big Man' syndrome.

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 stakeholder's involvement and results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County from 2007 to 2017

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

- i. To interrogate the influence of elections stakeholder's involvement on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County.

### 1.4 Research Questions

- i. Does elections stakeholder's involvement influence results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County?

### 1.5 Research Hypothesis/ Premise

$H_0$ : Stakeholder's involvement has no statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections.

### 1.6 Justification of the study

In Kenya, the IEBC is mandated to adjudicate disputes caused by the candidates from different parties. Best practices and lessons will be of very much benefit towards bettering the systems and practices of electoral management for delivering outcomes with integrity. As this nation aims at going to the 2022 general elections, there is a rise in tensions by the claims of the opposition concerning the gap of unpreparedness of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. This study will therefore highlight the key areas that IEBC should give much emphases to make sure the elections are carried in a free and fair way and only credible results are released therefore improving acceptability rate.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Contemporary Governance Theory

This theory was proposed by Pierre (2015). Contemporary governance theory places high degree to the importance of decentralization and local democracy as the way of advancing and promoting the practice of democratic governance (Catt, 2014). In that regard, every democratic state is required to ensure higher stakeholders political participation as a mechanism of promoting and strengthening democratic governance. Furthermore, the theory stresses that, democratic governance contains a competitive free and fair elections whereby eligible citizens are entitled to participate in the whole political processes (Scruggs, 2014).

This theory assumes that elections continuous power struggle between those who have decision-making power and those who have not that is at the base of political action. On the contrary International electoral norms and best practices set the standard for what democratic elections are and how they are attained. International electoral observers monitor national electoral processes to assess and report on their conformity to international electoral norms and best practices. This is assumed to assist progression of national electoral practices and processes towards these international benchmarks to contribute to the democratisation of that polity. Democratising through international electoral observation has succeeded in globalising the acceptance and normalising liberal democracy hegemony.

This theory further alludes that in many democratic governments, citizens hold the controlling shares of the political powers through citizen's participation in elections of all levels (Shale, 2015). In most African countries, the leaders impose themselves to the citizens. There are many cases where presidents assume that seat belongs to them for the rest of their lives which is actually the gap to this theory.

This theory help makes sense of the role of elections in democratic consolidation. Democracy and democratisation are contentious concepts explained through a plethora of varying theories. From the study, it was established whether the electoral body fully involves all the stakeholders and what is the end results of the involvement. The governance theory helps in development of a functional institution. The institution requires a strong organization culture with values and norms that acts as the organization guidelines. This led to the introduction of Neo-Institutional Theory.

### 2.2 Elections Stakeholder's Involvement and Results Acceptability in General Elections

Blais & Dobrzynska (2014) examined stakeholder's participation basing on 324 elections in different democratic countries in both developed and developing countries around the global since 1995 and 2008. Their study has shown that electoral system and voting system contribute to low turnout of citizen's participation in elections in many countries in the world. This study failed to give solid evidence that, compulsory voting is primary determinant for higher stakeholders' participation turnouts in elections.

Lincoln (2015) stated that stakeholder's participations in elections is considered to be among of the principle instrument of the liberal democracy. Therefore, elections should promote stakeholders voice, whereby through elections government derive its power from the citizens, and also the government can be fired by citizens through election. Somjee (2015) further emphasis on political involvement where by every citizen have a right to choice his or her leaders hold them responsible for their actions and replace them where necessary. Therefore, in this regard citizens have significant role to pursuing fairness and accountability and also affecting change in the democratic process. This study only concentrated on voters as the stakeholders. It left out the media, contestants, religious leaders among other stakeholders.

An investigation that have been done by Hibbing and Theiss-morse (2012) basing on the citizen's views of participation in the United States found that, citizens do not participate in political activities especially elections simply because they do not like politics in a sense that their trust over politicians is often disappointed which in turn reinforces disaffection. Failure of politicians to meet and implement their promises to citizens is a major concern to the problem. The work of Clack (2014) explored the low turnout in the European parliamentary elections and generally the findings has evidenced that citizens do not participate in elections due to lack of knowledge on a particular election, citizen's perceptions on particular election and lack of public interests are the critical issues that has contributed to low turnout of citizen's participation in the elections. This study was carried in a developed country with high literacy level. Further, the media in this country knows its role in educating masses. This study will focus on a country which has not achieved the desired literacy level.

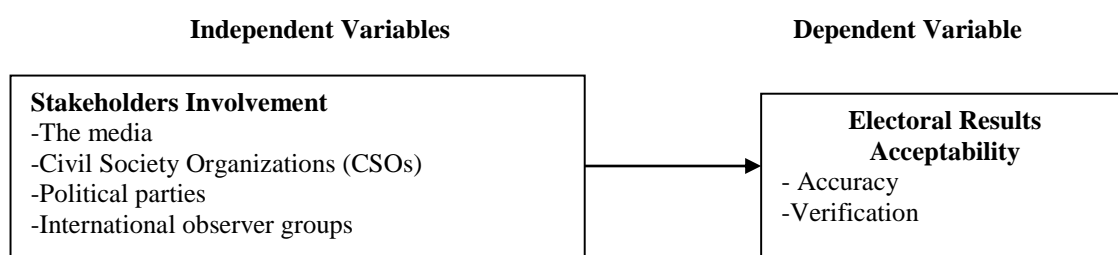
Patlyons and Richard Sinnott, (2013) researched on examining voter's turnout in the Republic of Ireland. The study findings reveal that, main factors determining the low voter's turnouts includes lack of stakeholder's participation, political corruptions, political inefficiency, lack of skills to process political relevant information and social class to citizens. This study revealed that, citizens did not participate fully in elections due to the fact that, people are not interested with elections, lack of information, voting impediment, political justification for not voting, age limits and ignorance of citizens to elections. The study majored on voter turnout only.it did not fully elaborate on what could be the underlying reasons associated with the low voter turnout.

The study of Scruggs and Stockemer, (2014) researched on the impact of results credibility. Findings from the study indicate that unacceptable results in election is the result of clientelism and corruption also the found that, system with no compulsory voting in most countries tend to have lower stakeholder's participation in elections at national and local levels. Further research has been made by Zoltan and Lewis (2013) basing on assessing Municipal Institutions in local elections at California, has a significant implication towards stakeholder's participation in elections. Results of the study confirmed that, most of people in California do not participate in elections due to the fact that, they have no opportunity to communicate their interests, preferences and making an important decision. The study failed to show the role of clear policy set-up in encouraging stakeholders' participation in political activities especially elections.

In Ghana, the free media has sometimes been accused of sensationalism, nonetheless; the proliferation of private media houses have done a lot of good to Ghana's democratic stability. Free media is central to the functioning of every democratic society as it helps in strengthening the freedom of expression and information as well as providing the free flow of information and ideas (Boafo, 2015). Since the Criminal Libel Law was repealed by the government in 2001, the media landscape has witnessed a buzz and has seen proliferation in every sphere of it. The number of print and electronic media has witnessed an exponential growth. Currently, there are over three hundred radio stations and more than a dozen television stations transmitting across the length and breadth of the country (Boafo, 2015).

The significance study has been made by TADIP (2014) basing on the Public views on Civic Elections, in Dar es Salaam. In relation to low turnout of citizen`s in elections, the study found that, Voters Register discourages voters participation, but further the study finds that lack of civic education and citizens empowerment between elections is also the problems that contribute to low turnout of citizen participation. This study will investigate further the areas IEBC needs to improve its training and awareness creation so that citizens can exercise their democratic rights.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework



### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Research Design

For purposes of this research, descriptive research design was applied. Conversely, this is a plan of the state of data collection and data analysis through a manner which brings together their relationship with this research's purpose. This design enabled the researcher to investigate influence of electoral preparedness on results acceptability in general elections a case of Machakos County.

#### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>120</b>

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. 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 Stakeholder's Involvement and Results enhanced Acceptability

The study sought to analyse the influence of elections stakeholder's involvement on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. The findings are presented as follows;

Participants reported that stakeholders were well involved in electoral process, however they mentioned that at the end of the day the politicians as part of the stakeholders will never agree that all issues that they raised were taken into account.

The study sought clarification on major stakeholders involved. Results show that among the stakeholders involved included political parties and their leaders, NGOs, Accredited media accredited observers, County Administration and security agents. On other partners on whom IEBC should involve, participants reported that there is need for more involvement of voters, religious groups, marginalized groups, non-governmental organizations, and that general public should be the main stakeholder and be fully involved. The study research sought to determine whether stakeholders bring new knowledge to IEBC.

One staff at IEBC stated “*engaging stakeholders bring new knowledge to IEBC, because there brought feedback to the electoral commission to facilitate better performance and knowledge on how to improve the election process*”. (IEBC Staff.7.8.2019)

The study established the following regarding stakeholder’s involvement. The findings are presented in Table 2

**Table 2: Statements relating to Stakeholder’s Involvement**

Statements	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Std. Dev
All the stakeholders were fully involved in the last elections	20%	20%	45%	10%	5%	3.57	1.08
IEBC does frequent briefing to the stakeholders on the elections progress	10%	22%	38%	25%	5%	3.92	0.97
Stakeholders views are accommodated	15%	15%	50%	12%	8%	3.69	1.00
No involvement of stakeholders may lead to results rejection	15%	15%	30%	26%	14%	3.81	1.28

From the study findings, majority of the respondents agreed that IEBC does frequent briefing to the stakeholders on the elections progress (38%, M =3.92 SD =0.97) no involvement of stakeholders may lead to results rejection (30%, M = 3.81 SD =1.28) stakeholder’s views are accommodated during the electioneering process (50%, M = 3.69 SD =1.00) and that all the stakeholders were fully involved in the last elections (45%, M =3.57 SD =1.08).

A political party representative stated “*Stakeholders should be involved in the budgetary allocations and IEBC should be transparent in all the processes that are ongoing during the election and give access to information to all parties involved. Further, IEBC should improve public participation avenues and there should be continuous and regular updates*”. (Political Party Representative.19.8.2019)

Further, a member of civil society noted the following on the roles of stakeholders “*Some of these stakeholders are critical in ensuring the identification of conflict triggers, forewarning about them and preventing their escalation to national crises and conflict. Civil society organisations, regional and international organisations normally carry pre-assessment field visits to so as to identify potential options to avert the likelihood of election-related violence in the country*” (Civil Society Member.19.8.2019)

#### 4.2 Roles Played by Stakeholders

Result show that there were various stakeholders during the voters counting who included party agents representing their individuals’ parties and stand for their interest of their parties.

One observer from the political parties noted;

“*Observers who observed the entire process in order to give a feedback to the IEBC and other relevant organization concerned with process. There were also the accredited media to cover and report the voting process. Others involved include the security personnel to secure the staff and the materials and finally the voters who participate in the voting process*”. (Political party observer.22.8.2019)

The study further established the following regarding statements to results management.

**Table 3: Statements to Results Management**

Statements	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Std. Dev
A combination of biometric and manual systems has helped in results in management	0%	0%	5%	25%	70%	4.28	0.92
All results should be announced at the polling station and a copy of the results, signed by party agents	0%	0%	5%	20%	75%	4.55	0.87
All materials needed should be in place at least one month before the elections	0%	10%	15%	20%	55%	3.88	1.33
Media, party agents and NGOs should be allowed to verify the election results declared by the Commission.	0%	10%	10%	15%	65%	4.21	1.22
The perception of the commission of independent and professional restores confidence that elections reflect the will of the people.	0%	10%	15%	15%	60%	4.19	0.96

Majority of the respondents agreed that all results should be announced at the polling station and a copy of the results, signed by party agents (75%, M = 4.55 SD = 0.87 ) a combination of biometric and manual systems has helped in results in management (70%, M = 4.28 SD = 0.92) media, party agents and NGOs should be allowed to verify the election results declared by the Commission (65%, M = 4.21 SD = 1.22), the perception of the commission of independent and professional restores confidence that elections reflects the will of the people (60%, M = 4.19 SD = 0.96) and that all materials needed should be in place at least one month before the elections (55%, M = 3.88 SD = 1.33).

On general feeling of the election results management, majority indicate that results management system was efficient according to the tallying center because the results were communicated immediately they were counted. Other were of the views that the result management was good but the commission should improve on making information to the stakeholders more transparent by giving access to the servers. To minimize the cases of tampering with the results, the forms should be scanned and sent directly to the national server at the polling station.

One member of the Parliament Masinga Constituency suggested;

*“On ways to improve on results management, IEBC put mechanisms to ensure that KIEMS don't to fail. There is need to improve on transmission transparency so that all stakeholders get satisfied with system, minimize paper work, adequate voter education and have secure server that can be open to public without being manipulated”. (Candidate one.23.8.2019)*

### 4.3 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	Stakeholder Involvement
Results Acceptability	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.602
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.	.002
	N	95	95
Stakeholder's Involvement	Correlation Coefficient	.602	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.002	.
	N	95	95

The study found strong positive correlation between results acceptability and stakeholder's involvement as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.602, this too was also found to be significant at 0.002.

### 4.4 Regression Coefficient

**Table 5: Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1 (Constant)	1.289	.345		3.731	.000
Stakeholder's Involvement X <sub>1</sub>	.484	.119	.276	4.070	.000

The regression equation appears as follows:

$$Y = 1.289 + 0.484X_1$$

Constant = 1.289, A unit change in stakeholder's involvement would enhance the acceptability in general elections by a factor of 0.484 and unit change in stakeholder's involvement would enhance the acceptability in general elections by a factor of 0.380.

### 4.5 Hypothesis Testing

H<sub>01</sub>: Stakeholder's involvement has no statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections. On comparing the critical value and the calculated value (1.96 < 4.07) 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 stakeholder's involvement has a statistical influence on results acceptability in general elections.



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The objective of the study was to interrogate the influence of elections stakeholder's involvement on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. Stakeholder participation helped in easing the transmission of election and dissemination of election process information. In general, failure to confirm to the theory of Contemporary Governance by Pierre (2015) that states that stakeholder's involvement and other democratic practices must be adhered to was noted as the key problem in electoral process in Machakos County. In addition, lack of objectivity and integrity while conducting elections negates the theory of Neo Institution Theory by DiMaggio and Powell (1983) who emphasizes the importance of the rule of law within a well-defined framework of operations.

The study concludes that involvement of stakeholder's in the electoral training had a positive significant influence on results acceptability in general elections in Machakos County. Among the stakeholder's involved included political parties and their leaders, NGOs, Accredited media accredited observers, county administration and security agents.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that IEBC should involve stakeholders in all stages of election process. Further, IEBC should enhance their public participation avenues and there should be a continuous and a regular update. Finally, IEBC should ensure the security of votes from casting to their processing until results are announced and handled meticulously as per policy.

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