

DETERMINANTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF WAJIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT WATER PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the study was to investigate determinants of public participation in implementation of devolved projects in Kenya, a case study of Wajir county government water projects. The objectives are: To determine how stakeholder engagement influence public participation in implementation of devolved projects, to evaluate how public awareness influence implementation of devolved projects in Kenya, to assess the extent to which training affect implementation of devolved projects in Kenya and to assess how decision making influence implementation of devolved water projects in Kenya in Wajir County. Descriptive research, design was employed; the study targets a population of 101,321 households from Wajir County. A 400 household sample is arrived at using Miller and Brewer (2003) statistical formula. Data was collected using semi-structured questionnaire. The study data collection instrument was reviewed by university supervisor to ensure validity. SPSS was used to analyze data using descriptive statistics. Data presentation was done using percentages and frequencies tables. Informed consent was sought from the respondents prior to data collection. Confidentiality took precedence regarding all information that was collected in order to avoid victimization. The study findings revealed that stakeholders

engagement, public awareness, decision making and training influence water projects implementation in Wajir County. Based on the findings of the study that has come from the respondents in the field and the literature review, the researcher makes the following recommendations: First, the researcher recommends that the stakeholders should be involved and consulted from the beginning of projects idealization, identification, resourcing, planning, implementation and in the monitoring and evaluation process. Secondly, to ensure effective public participation in devolved projects, Wajir County should publicize all its proposed projects in the relevant materials and media that can be quickly and widely accessed. County government of Wajir should also carry out civic education to ensure that people are informed of their responsibility to take part in the planning and implementation of the county projects. Thirdly, the researcher recommends that resources with some biases to both human and financial resources should be scrutinized and both the county and national government should come up with strategies of allocating sufficient finances and hire quality and sufficient personnel. Finally, the study recommends that training should be paramount in projects success.

Key Words: *public participation, implementation, development projects, Wajir County, government water projects, Kenya*

INTRODUCTION

Since 1990's public participation has been a concern in numerous countries across the world, particularly with the fall of Berlin wall which forestalled ideological rivalries between USA and union of Soviet socialist Republic, which was the genesis of democratic space among many countries in the world. It was a requirement by many governments to reform in order to enable their citizens' decision making right along hierarchical governance structure. This initiative

allowed the populace to plan as well as implement own development agenda (Smoke, 1994). Good governance is a requisite virtue of public participation because it is characterized with accountability and transparency of institutions (Doorgaspersad, 2009).

In 1998, UNCE adopted public participation in decision making as well as access to information, the binding convention established legal institutional requirements that enabled citizens' rights to access environmental information; participation in decision making; as well as a having judicial redress to protect environment. Environmental governance has therefore been enhanced by the Aarhus convention (World Bank, 2004). For example France, preceding 1980's was majorly a centralized state. France national government that is based in Paris approved local government decisions on annual budgets. However, incremental responsibilities of the sub sectors of national governments, made mayors to reject power centralization. The governance structure which was socialist in nature expanded the mandate of sub-national governments as well as objecting the central governments' policy making aspects, this made citizens to have limited power to plan and implement developments at individual level (Cole, 2006).

In the UK, involvement of citizen in the devolution became central in 1970's; with several activities demanding to control their development agendas for effective and efficient service delivery in the public service. The funds that were disbursed by the county government's administration units were spent upon legislature approval (UK Government Document, 2013). This was contrary to the wish of the members of the public, who desired that they should be involved in decision making, since they were able to engage government agencies as well as politicians (Alexandra et al., 2008).

In developed democracies like Canada, political life is widely characterized by public participation in government agendas. Public policy in Canada in the 1970s and today has been characterized by public participation; the decisions made by the governmental agencies are quite exceptional there are numerous examples of public participation in Canada. For instance establishment of Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy and Development was constituted in 1996 to develop Canadian foreign policy development. In 1997, the Canadian government involved civil society in Othawa and Geneva conferences with a focus of securing global ban on land mines, the conference adopted a poverty eradication program, as an instrument to buttress relationship between civil society and the state (Aminuzzaman, 2008).

In Germany, varied sources characterize legislative agenda, this include, interest groups; rulings in court; governmental programmes; association of trade industries as well as public discussions in the mass media. There are specialist department in the governments ministries that monitor and receive legislative issues that are potential. Interest groups are invited to attend discussion to share information and views. The said groups do not act autonomously, on behalf of individuals but a representative of social groups consultations that are prior, spearheads the efficiency of (Sming up with provisions that may not be workable when it comes to implementation. This implies that

lawmakers receive bills that are already influence by the interest groups. A case of South Africa relevant committees discuss bills clause by clause (Webler et al, 2001).

Consequently, following the international trends, regional organizations as well as African countries consider environmental governance principles into regional as well as national initiatives. The common people are always privy to the information regarding the remedies of land degradation problems such as deforestation and soil erosion. With this knowledge and skills, public participation enhances governmental effectiveness in her initiatives. Acquisition of information and enhancement of awareness of factors that affect their lives is buttressed when people are involved in problem and resources assessment. Thus public participation enables people to be more responsible for the actions they take as well as exerting pressure to the governments to address environmental degradation decisively (World Bank, 2004).

Sources characterize legistatic agenda, this include, interest groups; rulings in court; governmental programmes; association of trade industries as well as public discussions in the mass media. There are specialist department in the governments ministries that monitor and receive legislative issues that are potential. Interest groups are invited to attend discussion to share information and views. The said groups do not act autonomously, on behalf of individuals but a representative of social groups consultations that are prior, spearheads the efficiency of (Sming up with provisions that may not be workable when it comes to implementation. This implies that lawmakers receive bills that are already influence by the interest groups. A case of South Africa relevant committees discuss bills clause by clause (Webler et al, 2001).

According to Thwala (2010) South African local government was highly centralized particularly during apartheid regime. Apartheid denied South African citizen freedom to be involved in government decision making; the main objective was to enhance the regimes success. In the 1980s, the South African government the South African governance system since it denied policy making voices among the citizens. The central governance system was therefore substituted with devise reforms that enable new governance structures as well as policy changes. The main reason for these changes was to enhance absolute devolution powers as well as decentralization of administrative structures to the local levels in order to enhance public involvement in making policies and making of decisions.

In Uganda, the process of devolved governance structure was evident since the colonial era. The British indirect rule system; eliminated the citizens interaction in terms of policy development (Ochieng, 1995). In this type of governance system little power was granted to native leaders while the colonial government dominated immense power. Currently, there is decentralized power in Uganda, since the government structure embraces citizen involvement in public matters as well as devolution policies. This is further reinforced with accountability and transparency of democratic governance (Kaufman et al.. 1999).

Inappropriate allocation of public resources among the diverse populace posed a sporadic challenge to citizen involvement. To avert this trend decentralization of public resources mitigated

this challenge. The most significant notable point is that regional powers were not entrenched in the constitution; the preceding cases aformational a case of East Africa countries informed the introduction of citizen involvement as well as devolution in Kenya, by embracing successful public participation (TFD, 2011).

For instance in Kenya, independence constitution granted a lot of powers to local authorities by instituting strong decentralized governance systems, that offered powers of legislation, executive authority as well as financial capacity to enable independent operations (Oloo and Kanyinga, 2002).

Kenya became a highly centralized state after independence, the states executive power was centralized in the capital. Hierarchical governance system was led by the office of the president with a system of governance known as provincial administrative. The provisional administration structure was headed by provincial commissioners with an elaborate array of officials that included thousands of chiefs (Thomas, et al; 2008). This governance system made the public not to participate in governance factors. Resources and power was centrally concentrated at the expense of efficient and effective service delivery. This was occasioned by the fact that National Government policies were not consistent with devolution notion that denies participation of the public in a centralized governance system (Githinji, 2017). In this system devolution was replaced with delegation in regional as well as local levels that eliminates effective public participation in decision making process.

Kenya's' constitution 2010 did not form the first basis of devolution in Kenya. Varied, strategies have been employed in optimal allocation of resources in numerous levels of governance, regionally, since independence, (Oyugi, 1992, Chitere et al, 2013). District Focus for Rural Development decentralized organizational and institutional transformation that enabled public participation in every development stages. This approach buttressed accountability and transparency in service delivery.

Kenya has continually shifted from centralized to decentralized structure of governance over the years. The paradigm shift was brought about by disadvantages of highly centralized systems. The disadvantages include in appropriation of public resources, communities marginalization, inefficiencies and bureaucracies. Moreover, in the 1990's the government agencies developed decision making structures regarding specific funds that are to be allocated to contativity and local authority levels (legal resources foundation trust, 2009). Constitution 2010 provides a vibrant legal basis that buttresses involvement and participation of citizens in the devolved governance structure.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

According to World Bank (2015) successful performance of governments is enhanced by public participation, which is critical in execution of development project. Public participation system of governance has been embraced by counties USA, UK, South Africa and India irrespective of

initiatives that have been embraced in encouraging public participation reinforced by legal framework in constitution 2010 (IEA, 2015). Despite the centrality of public participation in ensuring good governance, studies reveal that there is an information gap on the devolved structures and public participation and what constitutes devolution in the Kenyan context (Daudi, 2016). The operation and the importance of public participation in Kenya are of wanting state (Apiyo, Wario & Moronge, 2017). The establishment of 47 county governments courtesy of constitution 2010 sets to improve service delivery. However, this transition of central to devolved governance in Kenya has faced myriad challenge including intergovernmental relations, corruption, as well as turf wars among leaders. Despite the centrality of public participation in ensuring good governance, studies reveal that there is an information gap on the devolved structures and public participation and what constitutes devolution in the Kenyan context (Daudi, 2016). Presently, research indicates that 53% of citizens are involved in public participation in Kenya (Transparency International, 2014). According to Khaunya, Wawire and Chepngeno (2015) the inadequate public participation in many counties in Kenya is characterized by the massive misappropriation of resources. This has resulted to loss of confidence and trust in Kenyan county governments thus affecting service delivery. From baseline survey findings of a report on the status of governance in Kenya, only 24.7% of the citizens are aware of devolution operations, and about 29% understood the structure of the devolved county governments. A paltry 1% of the populace mentioned leaving participated in devolution policy development; and actively involved local devolved governance (society for international development, 2012). This is an indication that in as much as the devolution governance is being implemented in Kenya, public participation is still negligible. The county government of Wajir, Kenya is also faced with challenges that continue to forestall the project implementation as well as provision of public service delivery. This particular county government is faced with a myriad of bottlenecks mainly; an unreliable public participation structure that has negatively influenced inter-community collaboration and public participation in water development projects in Wajir County. This study sought to address this gap by analyzing the determinants of public participation in water development projects in Wajir County.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine influence of stakeholders' engagement on public participation in implementation of development projects in Wajir County.
2. To assess how public awareness influence public participation in implementation of development projects in Wajir County.
3. To assess the extent to which decision making influence public participation in implementation of development projects in Wajir County.
4. To assess influence of training on public participation in implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Stakeholders' Engagement and Project Implementation

Nyabera (2015) sought to establish whether project implementation is influenced by stakeholder participation in Kenya, among compassion International projects in Mwingi Sub-County. Quantitative and qualitative approaches were utilized in the study. A sample of 191 respond was sampled from a target population from a target populatate of 391 stakeholder's data. The study findings affirmed that project implementation significantly depends on stakeholder engagement.

Njuguna (2016) examined the relationship between stakeholder's participation in project identification and subsequent project performance in automobile control project. The study conformed to descriptive research design. The study targeted was stakeholders in the automobile control project that included oil refinery companies, NEMA and ministry of energy. Data was collected supervisors, operators and project managers. The study findings revealed that automobile control project performance was significantly influenced by involvement of stakeholders in project identification.

In a study conducted in Guinea by Magassouba, Tambi, Al-Khalifa and Abdallah (2019) on the associative between development project performance and stakeholder involvement revealed that stakeholder involved in project planning and implementation enhances the choices that a project; and it is an appropriate way to achieve on organization goals. The information collected on stakeholder's involvement in previous study indicated the strong connection between project performance and various stakeholders and many authors agreed and are conducting more substantial investigations to ground those findings. The study indeed recommended vigorous evaluation of critical success factors highlighted in this study along with goals of the organization for more dynamic, innovate and effective project implementation.

Alqaizi (2018) sought to establish whether project success is dependent on communication management as well as stakeholder's engagement. The study found out that managing stakeholder' interests and what they expect is central in project success. Therefore, creation of a suitable environment for project management by managing and diagnosing stakeholder's expectation forms the basis of a projects success rate. This is realized by establishing effective communication strategies that meets stakeholders' requirements. This is further reinforced by establishing communication feedback mechanizing and matching stakeholders' expectations and objectives of the project.

Public Awareness and Project Implementation

Successful implementation of a project is dependent on the public awareness. Knowledgeable public on the nature of the projects enables meaningful participation towards the implementation of a project (Marzuki, 2009). Quality decision concerning project management has been achieved through meaningful engagement of public in the project decision making stage. Powerful legislative structures in Kenya provide clearest principles of project participation and subsequent

proficiency. However, there are numerous challenges on implementation phase that would meet for providing an environment that is enabling service delivery that encompasses regulative, systems and capacities (World War, 2015).

World Bank through the Kenya School of government has been able to respond to the challenges that include provision of guidelines in public participation and formalities of clear working policies. In addition to technical assistance as well as training to the government officials mandated with public participation and financial management. The significance of public participation is informed by availability of quality informative provided by government agencies to the participants (World Bank, 2015).

Sumba, Mironga and Amuhaya (2018) a conducted a study in Kakamega County to establish whether there is an association between implementation of developed projects association between implementation of developed projects and public awareness. The study used descriptive method. The study population comprised 600 residents of Kakamega County from six sub counties. SPSS verse 22 was utilized in the data analysis. The study results indicated that current public awareness strategies used by Kakamega County were ineffective. Most respondents felt that they had access to information. Participants felt that there was no proper governance structures availed to help them participate in the projects that are developed. Most of the respondents also felt that electronic media did influence citizens' involvement in implementation phase of the projects in Kakamega County, although use of old media like radio did not yield maximum results. The study also found that read shows played a big role on citizens' involvement in the developed project implementation. Respondents felt that there was no room for feedback when information was announced.

Namano (2015) conducted a study in Nairobi Central Ward. The main objective of the study was to establish how planning for urban projects is influenced by public participation. From a target population of 13,325 residents of Nairobi Central Ward a sample of 375 participants was selected. A response rate of 88.8% was realized after 333 respondents returned their questionnaires. Instrument reliability was at an index of 0.79 which is acceptable. The study findings revealed that public participation is not influenced by the variable accessibility. Secondly, there was a weak positive correlation between participation in urban and financial situation.

Meinich (2010) sought to ascertain the relationship between forest governance and increased awareness in Tanzania case study of Mama Misitu Forest Campaign. The study findings revealed that as much as villagers spearhead, the values of conversation they are a strong sense of project ownership irrespective of lack of awareness. In additional to, the study revealed that local problem such as corruptive remains a challenge in project management. In conclusion, the study concluded that awareness positively influences the governance of the project.

Decision Making and Project Implementation

Ejimabo (2015) explored the relationship between project effectiveness and decision making capabilities. Moreover, in this study he sought to find out whether creativity in decision making influence organizational effectiveness. In order to gain a in-depth knowledge as well as understanding qualitative research methods were utilized. The analyzed data revealed that decision making influences organizations project success significantly. Decision making can therefore be enhanced by embracing teamwork, globalization and embracing technology.

Bumba and Pina (2017) conducted a study in Eastern Uganda to establish whether project decision making is influenced by monitoring and evaluation. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative approaches, key information, interview and surveys which are monitoring and evaluation techniques were utilized in the study. The study findings established that at project design stage, monitoring and evaluation assist in the identification of local solutions as well as problems influencing project implementation. Monitoring and evaluating during the project phase reveal that decision making that is informed assist in the identification of issues that emerge that include weak implementation and health facility constraints. The study further concluded that shared information with stakeholders helps in making informed decisions.

The study findings revealed that the capacity of institutions financial management and community participation are paramount for community-based projects to accomplish their mandate. Planning for projects sustainability is also condusive for CBOs project implementation.

Otieno (2014) bought to determine determinants of community participation in agricultural projects with Kimira Oluch Small holder Farm Improvement project (KOSFIP) as a case. A random sampling was done to identify 280 respondents as population from a target population of 3,000 farmers. Descriptive statistics was utilized to analyses data; the findings established that the project design principles were adequate and provided the local community with a avenue to be effectively involved in all stages of implementation. The project was rated at 77.86% as being implemented by the governor in a consultative manner with the local community; and that capacity building strategies were not effective enough thereby causing differential commitment among farmers towards participating in project activities.

Training and Project Implementation

Changes in a community are generally brought about courtesy of new projects. However, success of their projects depends on support by various communication, of which 5-10% support these projects initially; the same percentage bracket do oppose the projects. Both cases they do change their positions about the projects subsequently, the silent majority account for 80 percent who are normally skeptical or indifferent about the project. The success of the project depends on the extent to which project managers are able to convince the silent majority to support the project initiatives. Project managers need to utilize various communication strategies to be able to bring the silent majority to support the projects goals and initiatives (Community Development Society,2000)

Consultations with the Community should start right from the start. This will build trust as well as understanding among group member that will subsequently trigger groups support. When the initial stages of a project implemented without the communication support it normally triggers rumors as well as misinformation. In this regard community support is built so that the community members are well informed about the project evolution from its initial planning. The public needs to express their views about the project that is being implemented to reinforce the community's Support to ensure its ultimate success. Feedback mechanisms should be initiated to enhance the community involvement and participation. Development partners need to establish environment that is conducive for project stakeholders to be able to air their views. Participation by the community avails requisite information concerning implementation phases (Kumar,2002)

A case study of Bucana Water Dam Project community members exercised freedom in identifying variables that affect the Dam Project performance, this included identification of members constitutional rights. The performance of the project was by training members on representation on the development projects. Training enhanced members authority in making decision on the expertise required to implement the project. The members of the Dam Project frequently expressed their views concerning the initiation and management of the project. According to African Development Bank (2001) assert that training about project implementation spearheads competitive of ideas that is vital in the project implementation which enhances efficiency of project success (Kakumba and Nsingo,2008).

According to World Bank (1996) the preceding requirement of implementing a project is to understand as well as learn how training project stakeholders on project opportunities and allocative efficiency of resources. Oakley and Marsdeu (1991) argue that involvement and community participation particularly on rural water project development requires successive training of members on project implementation. Training brings about capacity building among community members so that they become informed about what the project entails. When project training is not embraced presents a scenario whereby the stakeholders are not adequately informed about the project hence effective implementation is compromised.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholders are peruses or groups who gain or lose in a corporation setting especially when their rights are violated. In an organization set up stakeholders include customers, employees, creditors, supplies as well as the community at large. According (Oakley,2011) in order to understand an organizations environment stakeholder approach enables the management to broader its visitors' perspectives in terms of their responsibilities and roles. This enables the management to appreciate and accept varied organizational interest. Patton (2008) notes that stakeholder model encompasses groups and person having varied interests in enterprise setting, however, there is no predefined interests of either party (Maina,2013). This theory presents our emphasis on the importance of the association between stakeholders and top management. Moreover, the managers need to

comprehend how stakeholder's participation influences project success. The relationship between the junior staff and top management will dictate the level of stakeholder's participation. The present study will be guided by the stakeholder's theory that explains interrelationship of key stakeholders in project implementation.

The Theory of Constraints

Eliyahu Goudrat (1980) developed the properties of theory of constraints. This theory defines variables that do limit organizational performance. The constraints of an organization vary in terms of impact. The theory suggests that organizational managers need to focus on allocation efficiency of the available human and financial resources in order to improve organizational performance. The applicability of this theory in organizational setting has varied impacts (IMA 1999).

Theory of constraints poses a challenge to managers to re-evaluate their grounded assumptions that they predefine to enable them to achieve the organizational objectives; about what they prefer as relevant productive actions; as well as the financial management practices. The emphasis put upon maximization of revenue is explained by TOC to comprehend and manage the constraints thereof; attainment of organizational goals. The identification of these constraints informs TOC subordinates to utilize the non-constraint resources (IMA, 1999). The objectives of this theory in Wajir County are dependent on the available resources that are limited.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey research design was employed in this study in order to explore variables that influence implementation of developed projects. Descriptive survey enables collection of information through questionnaires to understand respondent interests, attitude, preferences and opinions (Kothari, 2008). The study targeted 101,321 Households in the selected Wajir Sub County (KNBS, 2009). A sample size of 400 Households was derived by using Miller \$ Brewer (2003) mathematical formula as presented below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: N is the population size; n is the sample size; e is the level of precision.

Primary data in this research was collected using closed and open-ended questionnaire. The essence of using questionnaire is that its administration is easy and saves time. Questionnaire is developed to answer each study's question (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2011). Data analysis was done through descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis is where the collected information is thoroughly examined and investigated so as to easily identify the statistics methods used and to clearly reveal results of the study. Each Study's objective was analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented in frequencies and percentages. SPSS version 23.0 was utilized to establish the relationship between the criteria variables.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The main objective of the study was to investigate determinants of public participation in implementation of devolved projects in Kenya, a case study of Wajir county water projects. Specifically, the study sought to determine how stakeholder engagement influence public participation in implementation of devolved projects, to evaluate how public awareness influence implementation of devolved water projects, to assess the extent to which training affect implementation of devolved water projects and to assess how governance influence implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County. The findings of the study are summarized below:

Stakeholders Engagement and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

The results shown that majority of the respondents disagreed with the constructs measuring stakeholders' engagement. This is an indication that there is inadequate stakeholders' engagement in the implementation of water projects in Wajir County. Specifically, when the respondents were asked to rate their opinion on whether decision makers in Wajir county government are committed in considering public input in decision making process. The respondents were therefore required to rate their responses on a likert scale of 1-5 where:5= Strongly Agree; 4= Agree; 3= Undecided; 2= Disagree; 1=Strongly Disagree. 47(16%) strongly agreed, 57(19%) agreed, 52(17%) were undecided, 110(36%) disagreed while 38(13%) strongly disagreed.This implies that stakeholder engagement is significant in implementation of water projects in Wajir County.However, 148(49%) disagreed that decision makers in Wajir county government are committed in considering public input in decision making process. This is an indication that public participation is inadequate.

Bright (2010) argues that every project manager needs to identify project stakeholders and determine their needs and expectations of the project. Also, World Bank (2013) argues that effective communication between stakeholders will ensure the project is successful and that everyone is on the same page. A stakeholder is someone that is involved in your project or has a vested interest in its success or failure. Knowing who your stakeholders are is important and the process begins by developing healthy relationships. They help decide on issues from the beginning, during planning and at execution of the project. Therefore, stakeholders should understand how the project functions, including the project scope, milestones and goals. Magassouba, Tambi, Al-Khalifa and Abdallah (2019) recommended vigorous evaluation of critical success factors highlighted in this study along with goals of the organization for more dynamic, innovate and effective project implementation.

Public Awareness and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

The findings revealed that, the majority of the respondents disagreed with the constructs measuring public awareness in the implementation of devolved water projects. However, the findings established that, there is a statistically significant positive relationship between public awareness

and implementation of devolved water projects. The disagreement with the constructs is indication that the public awareness creations of the projects are inadequate. Specifically, when the respondents were asked to rate their opinion on whether County government of Wajir notifies the community members on public participation forums. The respondents were therefore required to rate their responses on a likert scale of 1-5 where:5= Strongly Agree; 4= Agree; 3= Undecided; 2= Disagree; 1=Strongly Disagree, 38(13%) strongly agreed, 52(18%) agreed, 67(23%) were undecided, 106(37%) disagreed while 26(9%) strongly disagreed. This implies that public awareness is significant in implementation of water projects in Wajir County. However, 132(46%) disagreed that County government of Wajir notifies the community members on public participation forums. This is an indication that public awareness is inadequate. Findings are in contrast with Namano (2015) revealed that public participation is not influenced by the variable accessibility.

Decision Making and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

The results shown that majority of the respondents disagreed with the statements measuring decision making. This is an indication that decision making is not conclusive in the implementation of water projects in Wajir County. Specifically, when the respondents were asked to rate their opinion on whether the sustainability of county government devolved projects equity in resources distribution is adhered to. The respondents were therefore required to rate their responses on a likert scale of 1-5 where:5= Strongly Agree; 4= Agree; 3= Undecided; 2= Disagree; 1=Strongly Disagree. 45(15%) strongly agreed, 24(8%) agreed, 87(30%) were undecided, 65(22%) disagreed while 71(24%) strongly disagreed. However, 136(46%) disagreed that the sustainability of county government devolved projects equity in resources distribution is adhered to. This implies that there is no equity in resources distribution, this could be as a result of political cronism. This is an indication that decision making process does not include all stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluating during the project phase reveal that decision making that is informed assist in the identification of issues that emerge that include weak implementation and health facility constraints. Shared information with stakeholders helps in making informed decisions on adequate allocation of resources (Bumba & Pina, 2017).

Training and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

As discussed in the results section training influence implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County, the majority of the respondents seemed to connect with attendance of training regarding implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County. Among the constructs that were measured was training. Specifically, when the respondents were asked to rate their opinion on whether they have continually attended trainings on devolved projects. The respondents were therefore required to rate their responses on a likert scale of 1-5 where:5= Strongly Agree; 4= Agree; 3= Undecided; 2= Disagree; 1=Strongly Disagree, 52(19%) strongly agreed, 81(30%) agreed, 41(15%) were undecided, 77(29%) disagreed while 18(7%) strongly disagreed. Majority of the respondents, 133(49%) agreed that they have continually attended trainings on devolved

projects. This implies that there is adequate training on the devolved water projects in Wajir County.

Bucana Water Dam Project community members exercised freedom in identifying variables that affect the Dam Project performance, this included identification of members constitutional rights. The performance of the project was by training members on representation on the development projects. Training enhanced member authority in making decision on the expertise required to implement the project. The members of the Dam Project frequently expressed their views concerning the initiation and management of the project. According to African Development Bank (2001) assert that training about project implementation spearheads competitive of ideas that is vital in the project implementation which enhances efficiency of project success (Kakumba & Nsingo, 2008).

CONCLUSIONS

Stakeholders Engagement and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

It can therefore be concluded that an increase in the probability of implementation of devolved water projects is influenced by stakeholder's engagement. However, the study concludes that there is no adequate stakeholder's engagement in the implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County. The study further concludes that stakeholder's engagement has significant influence on implementation of devolved water projects.

Decision Making and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

The study concludes that decision making is an important variable in the implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County. The study has so far revealed that there is a relationship between decision making and implementation of devolved water projects. With this result, the study concludes that decision making process does not include all stakeholders.

Public Awareness and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

From the study, households in Wajir County have low access to information on, which limits their participation in the implementation of devolved projects. The study concludes that Wajir County lacks proper governance structures that can help citizens to participate in devolved government projects. This implies use of the old electronic media tools like radio which is not effective in increasing household's participation in the implementation of devolved projects in Wajir County. Despite the fact that interventions such as road shows play a big role on citizens' participation in the implementation of devolved projects, Wajir County is yet to come up with the best mechanisms that can penetrate the interior parts.

Training and Implementation of Devolved Water Projects

This study concludes that training has significant influence in promoting implementation of devolved water projects in Wajir County. Specifically, the study reveals that there is good

attendance of training sessions concerning implementation of devolved water projects by households in Wajir County. This has also been confirmed by the results of the analysis. Therefore, whenever leaders train stakeholders in Wajir County on devolved water project, subsequent implementation is enhanced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study that has come from the respondents in the field and the literature review, the researcher makes the following recommendations: First, the researcher recommends that the stakeholders should be involved and consulted from the beginning of projects idealization, identification, resourcing, planning, implementation and in the monitoring and evaluation process.

Secondly, to ensure effective public participation in devolved water projects, Wajir County should publicize all its proposed projects in the relevant materials and media that can be quickly and widely accessed. Some of these media and material include the county Facebook and WhatsApp groups, the county twitter handle, and in the county weekly reviews. These media tools will be able to strategically communicate the intended message and increase public participation in devolved projects.

County government of Wajir should also carry out civic education to ensure that people are informed of their responsibility to take part in planning and implementation of the county projects. Educating the public on a regular basis will create a good relationship between the government and the public, which will motivate the public to be actively involved in planning and implementation of devolved projects.

Thirdly, the researcher recommends that resources with some biases to both human and financial resources should be scrutinized and both the county and national government should come up with strategies of allocating sufficient finances and hire quality and sufficient personnel.

Finally, the researcher recommends that training should be paramount in projects success. The local politicians, the local and national leaders should keep politics, nepotism, tribalism and corruption out of projects. This way, the government will be able to link well with other bodies and make projects' success a reality.

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