FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KENYA: A CASE OF BUNGOMA SOUTH SUB-COUNTY

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has never been presented for an academic award of any other university or institution.

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This research project has been submitted for exanimation with my approval as University supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, Dad Mr. George Mukhwana Situma and Mom Mrs. Marceline Nasimiyu Situma for their encouragement and keeping my spirits high as well as giving me a kick in the right direction. Special dedication to my spouse Mr. Luka Mukimi Musamali for his love and financial support, were it not for you, I could not have reached this far. May I make mention of my sons Levy Wafula Kipyakwayi and Christian Junior Kipyakwayi for their patience and perseverance during my development of this research project. With utmost humility and honor, I thank God the Almighty for the gift of life, good health and knowledge that has been all sufficient.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

ADC	African Development Bank
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CGDP	County Government Development Projects
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDP	Integrated Development Planning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
RBM	Results Based Management

ABSTRACT

The implementation of the community participation process is important for the democratisation of social values and better planning and fulfilment of public needs. The community participation process, however, is sometimes threatened by bureaucratic constraints caused by the lack of a systematic approach and an inadequate public administration system, which contribute to the community exclusion from the process. The exclusion is also caused by lack of knowledge about community participation and low levels of education amongst the public. With this in view, this study examined the factors influencing community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County, Kenya. The objectives of the study were to: establish how training influence community participation in County development projects, determine the extent to which planning influence community participation in County development projects, determine the extent to which project execution influence community participation in County development projects and assess how Monitoring and Evaluation influence community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. The study was guided by the theory of planned behaviour. A descriptive research survey design was used for this study. The study targeted a population of 160 with sample size of 160 predetermined using census. The study used questionnaires and interview schedule for data collection. The instruments' content validity was determined by consulting supervisors in tool construction and a pilot study used to examine reliability of study tools. This employed Cronbach's alpha Coefficient to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire at $\alpha > 0.7$. Descriptive method of data analysis was employed in both quantitative and qualitative data. The study findings may provide a systematic and comprehensive insight into the state of community participation as a way of socio-economic empowerment and development of the people in devolved systems of governance in Kenya and add value to policy framework and review the current status of devolution.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Since independence thousands of development projects have been implemented by popularly elected leaders, out of which some have failed to produce desired outcome. The promulgation of the New Constitution in August 2010 provides a strong legal framework for the enhancement of participatory governance through devolved structures at county level. Poor villagers still live in misery and deprivation; their basic human needs are not fulfilled. Their lifestyle is not improved as much as it was expected (Kamuiru & Mbwisa, 2014). Therefore, development interventions in the past have tended to focus on resource and knowledge transfer to beneficiary communities through the 'top-down' approach (FAO, 1991). Researchers have established that there have been low levels of community participation in projects started up by local authorities, particularly in the developing world, Kenya included, although the same is considered an important endeavor particularly in M&E (Kimwetich, Kidombo & Gakuu, 2017).

In democracies such as Canada, community participation in government decisions is now a regular feature of political life. Community participation became a feature of public policy in Canada from the 1960s and 1970s and, today, decisions by government without public consultation are the exception rather than the rule. There are numerous examples of community participation in Canada. For example, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development was established in 1996 to help Canadians outside government contribute to the development of Canadian foreign policy. In 1996 and 1997, Canada involved civil society to an exceptional degree in the Geneva and Ottawa conferences that sought to secure a global ban on land mines. At the latter conference, the Program to Eradicate Poverty was employed as a basic instrument to support policies and programmes aimed at transforming relations between the state and civil society (Aminuzzaman, 2008).

In Germany, legislation derives from a number of sources (government programmes, the administration, court rulings, associations of trade and industry and interest groups, local authorities and as a result of public discussion in the mass media). Specialist divisions in the ministries receive and monitor potential issues for legislation, and invite interest groups to attend discussions with a view to exchanging views and information. These groups do not act arbitrarily on behalf of a few individuals, but represent, in principle, the interests of broader social groups. This prior consultation is considered more efficient than first drawing up provisions, which may later prove to be ill-founded or impossible to implement. It also means that interest groups can influence a Bill before it reaches the lawmakers. As in South Africa, the Bill then goes to the relevant committee where it is discussed clause by clause (Webler *et al.*, 2001).

The conception of community participation in South Africa is largely linked to the planning and management of development projects at the local sphere of government (Ababio, 2004; Moseti, 2010; Madzivhandila & Asha, 2012). This is because local municipalities are regarded as the sphere of government that is closer to the people and the pillar of democracy. The South Africa democratic government adopted developmental approach to local government in order to eradicate the legacy of the past apartheid regime. Municipalities can therefore play a developmental role by among other things; ensuring that people are at the centre of local government initiatives. For this reason, municipalities in South Africa are required through legislative frameworks to encourage the involvement and participation of the ordinary members of the society in decisions that affect their well-being.

Furthermore, in a study of Community Participation in Local Government Planning Processes: A Paramount Step Towards a Successful Service Delivery by Madzivhandila and Maloka (2014), they asserted that in the recent years, planning for service delivery mandate has been strategically shifted from a centralized (national) to a more localized (municipal) sphere of government in South Africa. That is, planning is no longer seen as a top-down but rather regarded as an inclusive process where communities are viewed as key stakeholders. In this sense, community participation is seen as having a major implication on democratizing service delivery beyond just representative government but

locating users and communities as central role players in the process. Community participation in this context offers a greater control of the underprivileged over their own situation and ensures their full involvement in determining their own developmental needs. Therefore, municipalities must play a significant role in promoting democracy and ensuring that communities participate in decisions that affect them directly. The article argues that despite its complex structures, obstacles and severe managerial challenges, community participation remain paramount to the success of planning for service delivery.

Over the years, Kenya has progressively shifted from a centralized to a decentralized form of governance. This paradigm shift was precipitated by the shortfalls that are often characteristic of highly centralized systems. The shortfalls include administrative bureaucracies and inefficiencies, misappropriation of public resources and the marginalization of local communities in development processes. Consequently in the late 1990s, the government began the devolvement of specific funds and decision making authority to the districts, local authority and constituency levels (Legal Resources Foundation Trust, 2009). The promulgation of the New Constitution in August 2010 provides a strong legal foundation for the enhancement of participatory governance through devolved structures at county level. This is an important milestone, but it is critical at this stage of the design process to take stock of the empirical findings of research and counsel of practitioners.

It is highlighted that the main purpose of community participation is to offer the public an opportunity to participate in the decision making process of related development planning. Here, related development planning refers to a stakeholder engagement with any development plan that might affect physically, mentally or both. However, the success of the process depends on how far the community is allowed to be involved (Lukic, 2011). It is viewed that the proposed development's stakeholders were not accessible to the same rights, meaning that the power of involvement was not equally bequeathed. This negates the purpose and goal of public participation and could potentially create resentment among the non-consulted and therefore, marginalized stakeholders.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are widespread claims of a community participatory process in formulating and implementing the government's rural public projects and initiatives in ensuring successful implementation and attainment of desired objectives. Nonetheless, successful project implementations are few and far apart. Mukui (2005) argued that some of the reasons why development interventions have not succeeded in achieving their objects include: Lack of a legal framework for community participation in planning and implementation; incomplete decentralization that does not empower the beneficiary communities; and non-participatory planning process that makes people not to identify with the projects, resulting in lack of ownership and eventual sustainability.

Although participation in decision making lead to a more efficient and effective provision of Government delivery of services, earlier studies indicate that participation-performance nexus offer mixed evidence (Simonsen & Feldman, 2008). Moreover, participation is time consuming and has the potential to slow down decision making since the public needs to be informed, and even educated first, in order to meaningfully participate in administrative processes. According to Irvin and Stansbury (2004) ''the per-decision cost of citizen participation groups is arguably more expensive than the decision making done by a single administrator'' with the appropriate expertise and experience. There are concerns about the loss of control over the process (Moynihan, 2003) and also that most actively involved citizens might represent private interests that are very different than the broader public interests (Ebdon & Franklin, 2004; Heikkila & Issett, 2007; Robbins, Simonsen & Feldman, 2008). They also reported that there are administrative costs associated with public participation (Ebdon & Franklin, 2006; Irvin & Stansbury, 2004; Robbins, Simonsen & Feldman, 2008). In addition, lack of effective structures for people's participation has been a major constraint upon more widespread development.

It is from this backdrop that some questions may subsequently arise in the mind of development practitioners; does the existing decision making process of many devolved Governments and partners promote people's participation in project development and

implementation process? What role does the community offer in participatory process in these development projects? Therefore, the current study investigated into the factors influencing community participation in the County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine factors influencing community participation in the County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The following objectives guided the study:

i. To establish how training influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

ii. To determine the extent to which planning influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

iii. To determine the extent to which project execution influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

iv. To assess how Monitoring and Evaluation influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.

1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

i. How does training influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

ii. To what extent does planning influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

iii. How does project execution influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

iv. How does Monitoring and Evaluation influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study focused on factors influencing community participation in the County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. Participatory development at local level has been an increasing concern for policy-makers as well as practitioners hence this study has great importance to different stakeholders. The information generated by this study may also be useful to other researchers, as a stepping stone for further studies on role of community participation in implementation of development projects. Study findings and detailed analysis, might help to bring out the latest scenarios of development and Governance at grassroots level. It may further help the policymakers identify the loopholes, if any, in the present system and thereby assist them to formulate appropriate policies in future implementation of projects.

1.7 Basic Assumptions of the Study

The study assumed that: There is a homogeneous structure of the public and County Government especially with regard to community participation and involvement in development projects and implementation. The second assumption is that all locals are interacting people based on mutual dependence and concerns. The attainments of the objectives on implementation of development projects in devolved Governments are purely a function of community participation and also of external factors such as intra and inter Government relations (corporate responsibility).

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

The study was delimited to community beneficiaries in the County Government of Bungoma South on factors influencing community participation on implementation of County development projects.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

The study covered a number of groups and community stakeholders who were heterogeneous in nature and in terms of literacy level, social class, political affiliations, cultural backgrounds and different geographical demarcation. This may not provide uniformity of responses on a similar issue. Therefore, this could in turn affect the internal validity of data collected and hence the results may not be generalized. The problem was neutralized by using researcher administered questionnaire that combined both structured and unstructured questions. Additionally, the inherent 'fear of unknown' especially in Kenya where people are not used to researchers also limited data collected. This To respondent effect was overcame by assuring respondents confidentiality and anonymity of their responses and the researcher clearly explained the intention of research was purely academic.

Another limitation for this particular study was time. In addition to saving time and cost, this has the added benefit of reducing survey fatigue among respondents and give adequate time for report preparation. It was enhanced through use of an effective work plan of activities developed and strictly adhered to. Furthermore, the study required enormous finances in order to develop a good report since the researcher was self-sponsored. Data collection is typically one of the most expensive aspects of a research study. According to Bamberger *et al.*, (2006), one of the best ways to lessen data collection costs are to reduce the amount of data collected therefore, this study collected only what was necessary for the study purpose and the information was limited to the stated objectives, indicators and assumptions in the logframe.

1.10 Definition of Significant Terms

Community Participation: A process by which citizen's act in response to public concerns, voice their opinions about decisions that affect them, and take responsibility for changes to their environment.

Monitoring & Evaluation: participating in appraisal work done, recognizing improvement that can be made and redefining needs

Training: refers to involvement in formal or informal learning activities to enhance

communication, construction, maintenance and financial management skills.

Project execution: The amount of this potential influence the local communities control the resources and projects in their environs. This definition is adopted.

Project planning: this involves formulation of objectives, setting goals and criticizing plans. Is basically a process of making decisions that will carry into future actions. Decisions have to be made about `what the present situation is, how it could and ought to be changed and what means can be used to accomplish the new and more desirable situations.

1.11 Organization of the Study

This research project consists of five chapters namely introduction, literature review and research methodology, Chapter one is the introductory chapter that includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the research objectives, and research questions, significance of the study delimitations of the study, limitations of the study and definition of significant terms. Chapter two presents literature review which helps in understanding the existing body of knowledge as well as identifying gaps to be filled. In addition, theoretical framework and conceptual framework have been highlighted in this chapter. Chapter three discusses the research methodology. It includes research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, pilot study, validity and reliability of instruments, data analysis techniques and presentation and, operational definition of variables. Chapter four presents data analysis, presentation and interpretation of study findings and finally chapter five highlights summary of findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestion for further studies.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Reviewing the existing literature around the topic of research interest is vitally important because it helps in understanding not only the body of knowledge that relates to the research topic but also in developing an argument about the relevance of the research (Bryman, 2012). This chapter systematically reviewed the related literature that guides the reader in understanding what has already been done by other researchers in as far as community participation on implementation of County development projects in County Government of Bungoma South, Kenya. Theoretical perspective underlining theoretical framework discussing the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) conceptual framework and knowledge gaps filled by the study and the summary of the literature.

2.2 The Concept of Community Participation

Community participation is a concept that is frequently mentioned in community development. Practitioners in development believe that in order for projects to succeed, communities need to actively take part in designing, implementing and shaping the projects that affect them. The implementation of the public participation process is important for the democratization of social values and better planning and fulfilment of public needs. It is also useful for educating the public especially regarding government development programmes. This will potentially influence social or personal changes amongst community members, which can then be used to incorporate diverse public interests and thus accord people with the right to participate in decisions that will affect their lives. To a greater extent, community participation stimulates information exchange between all the proposed development's stakeholders (the public, government and non-government organizations) which will further enhance the mutual understanding and relationship between the stakeholders and resulting in the government and the proposed development enjoying instilled support (Cavric, 2011).

In addition, community participation includes regulatory negotiations, mediations and citizen juries'. Other than serving as a means of educating people and enhancing their awareness, public participation is also vital in preparing an efficiently better planning framework as a result of better understanding of stakeholders' demands and needs which thus leads to effective resource planning and management. Interestingly, the act of participating in structuring the development plan enables the citizens to minimize political and administration problems while promoting transparency within the professionals' environment (Lukensmeyer, Goldman & Stern, 2011), which in turn will address perceptions of inequality of power.

Community participation can be any process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision. Public participation affords stakeholders (those that have an interest or stake in an issue, such as individuals, interest groups, communities) the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives. Not all public participation is the same. Conducting meaningful public participation involves seeking public input at the specific points in the decision process and on the specific issues where such input has a real potential to help shape the decision or action. Therefore, the community has a major role in influencing the implementation of projects in the County. The main purpose of community participation is to offer the public an opportunity to participate in the decision making process of related development planning. Here, related development planning refers to a stakeholder engagement with any development plan that might affect physically, mentally or both. However, the success of the process depends on how far the public is allowed to be involved (Lukic, 2011).

2.3 Community Training and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Community participation is defined as an active process of organizing communities to take part in the socio-economic and political activities of their locality, making them effective participants and beneficiaries of collective decisions that have been taken and executed (Nsingo & Kuye, 2005). Ababio (2004) also defined it as the process by which

local stakeholders such as community members, government institutions, local businesses, community based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) work collectively in decision making that influence development outcomes in a municipal jurisdiction. Therefore, community participation is a mechanism through which communities and local stakeholder can be involved in matters pertaining to local governance. Community participation in the local government decision making is also influenced by the integration and mutual interaction between all spheres of government.

Community participation stimulates information exchange between all the development stakeholders which will further enhance mutual understanding and relations between them, resulting into unreserved support for the specific project in question (Cavric, 2011). Theron (2005), on the other hand, states that it is almost impossible to suggest any developmental intervention without involving the intended beneficiaries (p113). There is however, some evidence that there exist low level of public participation in government interventions across Africa. For instance, Siphuma (2009) examined the role of ward committees in public participation in the local government of Thulamela Municipality, South Africa and found that although statutes provide for public participation, there are no strategies on the ground to support the same. Equally, Kwena (2013) examined the factors affecting community participation in the management of development projects through LASDAP in Narok County; Kilgoris Constituency. The study established very low community participation in LASDAP process, limited awareness coming out strongly as one of the reasons for poor local involvement in the development projects. Information regarding managerial and accountability of projects remains unknown in the absence of community participation.

The act of incorporating communities particularly previously marginalized or disadvantaged groups expands the scope and depth of citizenship and allow for sustainable decision making expanding the depth means into the process of service delivery (Heller, 2001). The more citizens are increasingly considered to have opinions that matters and experiences that count, municipalities should take it further and involve them in the kind of decisions that are currently presented as technical, rather than acknowledged as value-laden and political. This kind of active participation guard against

political elected representatives becoming purely advocates of the bureaucracy. Furthermore, Cornwall and Gaventa (2001) contends that, it is only when people are afforded power to achieve specific concrete goals such as implementing a specific plan or projects that present participation as significant process at the local level. The act of consultation without attention to transfer power and authority of decision making will lead to voices without influence. Communities should stand as makers and shapers rather than as users and choosers of intervention or service designed by others. Traditional forms of political representation should be re-examined and direct democratic mechanism should increasingly be drawn upon to enable citizens to play a more active part in decision which affect their lives (Burde, 2004; Williams, 2006). The right of participation in social-economic, cultural and political decision-making should be facilitated in the nexus between basic human rights as outlined in the constitution through adoption of the IDP process.

Citizens often possess local knowledge and can propose innovative solutions that would lead to better resource allocation decisions (Beierle & Cayford, 2002; Fung, 2004; Moynihan, 2003; Sirianni, 2009) and thus better effectiveness. This approach have also been further supported by some other research suggesting that public participation could lead to better policy and implementation decisions and thus can be associated with a greater attainment of programs' public goals (Beierle & Cayford, 2002; Fagotto & Fung, 2009; Fung, 2004; Sirianni, 2009).

Inclusionary and exclusionary issues in the participation processes do exist unintentionally, but were attributable to limitations in budget, improper approaches used and lack of awareness amongst local residents and the stakeholders. In short, this suggests that future public participation process should consider a more effective public participation concept where it '...enables the public to express [more freely but within scope], and the decision-maker to take account of, opinions and concerns which may be relevant to those decisions, thereby increasing the accountability and transparency of the decision-making process and contributing to public awareness of (Hartley & Wood, 2005:320). Additionally, technology should be adapted and put in use in the public participation process given that technological development is advancing

steadily, yet rapidly (Kingston, Carver, Evans & Turton, 2000). According to Bramwell and Sharman (1999), effective public participation is difficult to achieve if the residents are not equally represented within or as part of the whole group of stakeholders. Equal representation refers to the stakeholders' knowledge and understanding on the proposed development specifically and knowledge in planning generally.

Capacity building is an essential step in preparing the community for sustainable development. It begins with the inception of the project, in that the communities are involved both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, Pycroft (2000) argues that, empowered local governments deepen democracy on both counts because they facilitate a better alignment of decision making centres with local preferences and local sources of knowledge and information and because it creates lot of participation that reduce the costs and unevenness of collective action. For example, in South Africa, which is characterized by a lack of strong civil society structures which can represent the interest of the majority of community members, as well as apparent lack of capacity among citizens to respond meaningfully to the complex matters, more resources should be channeled towards strengthen local government in order to facilitate meaningful participation of the ordinary people (Madzivhandila & Asha, 2012). To a greater extent, public participation stimulates information exchange between all the proposed development's stakeholders (the public, government and non- government organizations) which will further enhance the mutual understanding and relationship between the stakeholders and resulting in the government and the proposed development enjoying instilled support (Cavric, 2011).

Community based projects are complex and require multifaceted management skills (Weinberg, 2008). Therefore, institutions and management involved in project implementation from the community to the national or international levels need to be empowered in terms of information, skills and resources (human and capital) for smooth running of activities for sustainability of projects. Participation means empowering communities by developing skills and abilities that enables them to engage and make informed decisions with regard to their developmental needs. According to Moseti (2010), participation serves as a tool for closing the gap between local government, civil

society, private sector and the general community by developing a common understanding about local situation, priorities and programmes. Therefore, the aim of community participation would be to promote transparency, accountability in governance and create ownership of development decisions as well as programmes and project (Tshabalala & Lombard, 2009). It can therefore, argued that community participation serve as a crucial component of good governance and effective service delivery.

According to McDade (2004), good management ensures that sufficient local resources and capacity exist to continue the project in the absence of outside resources. Espinosa, et al. (2007) opines that task familiarity is important in the community based projects and this is usually linked to performance which in turn is linked to sustainability. Good management goes beyond mere skills (Kirksch, 2000) to technical and expertise required to successfully implementing the project (Little, 1993). This study argues that institutional and management capacity is a recipe to effective project implementation as it encourages participation and involvement of the community in all the processes of project implementation, hence people feeling empowered. Empowered people have freedom of choice and action, which in turn enables them to better influence the course of their lives and the decisions which affect them.

2.4 Planning and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Community participation and development projects are seen as locally based planning instruments that could enable devolved governments and communities to respond to poverty, unemployment and inequality (Govender & Reddy, 2011). This development planning approaches are based on the principle of inclusive and representative consultation and participation of all residents, communities and stakeholders in local governance (Heydenrych, 2008). Further compounding this issue is the realization that the public, armed with considerable knowledge and more understanding on the public participation process, may suggest a more comprehensive public involvement strategy. This approach, from the public perspective, is considered essential in directing and planning their future which is supported by Hornbein and King's (2012:717) argument in that there is '...no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society...and

if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion; the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion'. Neshkova et al.'s (2012) statement also concurs with this approach indicating that participation is associated with knowledge sharing.

Community participation provides opportunities for the community to express their views in development projects. Thus, the planning and implementation of these projects should be accepted only after considerable discussion and consultation with communities (Mbambo & Tshishonga, 2008). This process allows marginalized individuals to have voices in the future development initiatives. Hence, it enables for full involvement of ordinary members of the community in decision making, planning, designing, organizing and executing development initiative that affect them. The involvement of people should create consensus between different stakeholders and a sense of ownership of development initiatives and allow them to share equitably the benefits resulting from such development (Nsingo & Kuye, 2005). Basically, this allows people to direct and implement development projects with the view of improving their standards of living in terms of jobs, income, empowerment and self-reliance.

According to McEwan (2003), the act of including the voices and concerns of beneficiaries in the projects and other development initiatives that are meant to help them offers a counter weight to traditional top-down development approach. Hence, such interaction exposes communities to vital information which serve to generate a radical consciousness amongst them with regard to the possibilities for transformative planning and budget allocations for development purpose. Neshkova *et al.,* (2012) stated that citizen input allows public officials to better understand public priorities and reduce wasteful projects, which in turn leads to better efficiency. Evidence shows that participation process allowed local residents to be involved through various consultation approaches, from household surveys to workshop sessions in South Africa. Reviewed literature has shown that social and culturally approved community-based projects eventually become sustainable. Community-based project sustainability is about creating a more just and equitable community through encouraging social and cultural diversity (Roseland *et al.,* 2005). Any community-based project therefore, must give much

consideration to socio-cultural aspects in any given project during pre and post-implementation.

Analysis of Beierle and Cayford (2002) also showed that recommendations made by citizens can lead to more cost-effective solutions than the alternative courses of action which is supported by Sayce (2013) who mentioned that to improve the quality, legitimacy, and capacity of environmental decisions, public participation has begun to include more direct roles for involvement and dialogue, such as formal comments, public hearings, and citizen suits (National Research Council, 2008). In recent years, the public has also helped to inform a wide range of planning and decision-making processes by participating in stakeholder, also referred to as citizen, advisory groups (McCool & Guthrie, 2001).

In project development and implementation, IDP is viewed as bridging together of many stakeholders as possible to delineate, define and promote their common interest (Tshabalala & Lombard, 2009). It enables communities and local stakeholders to define their goals, needs and related priorities in a municipal area. This could be achieved through structured participation and establishing the conditions for public's involvement throughout the cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review (Mubangizi, 2007). IDP is supposed to be the business plan of each municipality based on *what* and *how* it is going to benefit the communities under its jurisdiction. The communities should be informed, consulted and be allowed to participate in the planning process that concerns their needs and future. The coordination the IDP and ensure adequate involvement of all stakeholders in the area. This process could lead to the empowerment of the community and enhancing their capacity to influence the IDP process in a meaningful way. Therefore, IDP allows for coordination between different stakeholders and municipalities to better understand the dynamics that exist in their development areas and enable them to meet the needs of communities and improve their quality of life by developing clear visions and strategies (Ingle, 2008).

In reality, most of local government institution are still facing challenges associated with finance and human resources capacity, hence cooperation between three spheres of

government to direct resources to local areas become a prerequisite for the success of development facilitation at the county government level. Other than serving as a means of educating people and enhancing their awareness, public participation is also vital in preparing an efficiently better planning framework as a result of better understanding of stakeholders' demands and needs which thus leads to effective resource planning and management. Interestingly, the act of participating in structuring the development plan enables the citizens to minimize political and administration problems while promoting transparency within the professionals' environment (Lukensmeyer, Goldman & Stern, 2011), which in turn address perceptions of inequality of power.

2.5 Project Execution and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Although government administrators, officials, and community leaders have long recognized the value of public participation for a variety of purposes, processes, and decisions (Bryson et al., 2013; Yang & Pandey, 2011) and it is undoubted that local community involvement in the decision making process will enhance the outcome of the framework of a proposed development plan, they frequently do not have a good understanding of how to design participation processes to achieve desirable outcomes. The differential outcome of participatory democracy arises in part from a complexity of uneven power relations, trust and lack of belief in having a long-term impact on the status quo, often people do not trust their representatives as they are mostly co-opted by systems and are thus perceived as not being caring about their constituencies whom they are supposed to represent and account to. Citizens also are found to express disinterest because cynical public officials simply go through the motions of including them with no real commitment to change (Pycroft, 2000).

In other instances, Williams (2006) argues that communities attend the supposedly participatory meetings as ill-informed or non-informed spectators, hence the attendance tend to decrease in public participation meetings. County Government officials tend to avoid explaining the current state of service delivery to communities, the purpose and how the IDP would evolve, its benefits and the consequence if community members do

not participate in the planning process. This has been linked to municipal official who are unskilled, lack the required training and knowledge base in public and development management methodology to function optimally. Concurrently, there are those communities who choose not to participate as a result of negative perceptions or experience such as language barriers, lack of funding, fear of government and its agents.

Community participation, that is, the direct involvement or engagement of ordinary people in the affairs of planning, governance and overall development programmes at local or grassroots level has become an integral part of democratic practice in recent years (Cornwall & Gaventa, 2001; Pycroft, 2000; Heller, 2001; McEwan, 2003; Burde, 2004; Williams, 2006: Madzivhandila & Asha, 2012). Nzimakwe & Reddy (2008) argues that community participation form part of domestic engagement and citizenship which is fundamental to the principle of good local governance. It incorporates the poor and marginalized in local affairs, to take ownership of local resources and make appropriate decisions to use such resources in a sustainable manner. Mulwa (2010) asserted that people's participation also helps for an improved understanding of the role of the several stakeholders involved and the limitation of technical and financial resources that exist to address the problems of the poor.

Holder and Moore (2000) support developing local resources for enhanced sustainability emphasizing the importance of adequate local capacities to generate funds after external funding ceases. Cohen (1977) and Uphoff (1981), alluded that decision-making: public participation and involvement that address aspects in problems' identification, activities' procedures and process as well as resources' planning and management. They are also involved directly in implementation: refers to the local community's contributions in the forms of labour, money, resources, materials as well as time spent on management process and/ or take part in activities that they have agreed upon, In addition, they offer benefits: refers to benefits which might be enjoyed either socially, politically and/or economically, are distributed equally and fairly among members of the public participation programme and evaluation: where there is a growing consensus that after an activity has been identified and implemented by the people, they should have the right to evaluate their achievements.

Project ownership is the process where the community participates fully in community-based projects, accepts and owns the outcome of a project at the end and beyond the project period. Community acceptance and project ownership promote project support by all stakeholders involved in the project, hence reducing community resistance in participation in project activities. Chappel (2005) indicates that community support increases project efficiency, which impacts positively on project sustainability. Further, Akerlund (2005) highlighted that community support increases project effectiveness as it helps to ensure that the project achieves its objectives and that benefits go to the intended groups. Where project ownership is exclusive, those in control are less likely to respond positively to the needs and ideas of the wider group. This can have a long-term impact on project sustainability.

2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Community participation is found to be a valid mechanism to promote such a developmental mandate in higher prominence as it hold strong appeal for multiple actors such as communities and civil societies (Burde, 2004; Williams, 2006). In the past, there has been a tendency to respond to the gap that exists between citizens and state institutions in one or two ways. *Firstly*, attention has been made to strengthen the process of participation in that the poor people exercise voice through new forms of inclusion, consultation or mobilization designed to inform and to influence longer institutions and policies. *Secondly*, growing attention has been paid to how to strengthen the accountability and responsiveness of those institutions and policies through changes in institutional design and a focus on the enabling structures or good governance (Cornwall & Gaventa, 2001).

There are no real institutional structures to coordinate, evaluate and monitor community participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of IDP. This exacerbates the potential for institutional conflicts in community participation. Moreover, community participation in relation to the IDP had turned into a ceremonial exercise and not a systematic engagement of communities that is structurally aligned to the development and service delivery programme (Williams, 2006; Piper & Deacon, 2008). Furthermore,

Williams (2006) adds that scheduled meetings of county councils are been marred by lack of the requisite facilitation or coordination infrastructure and skills to optimize community participation; lack of public transport to and from the venues of the meeting; and, lack of logistical capacity and human resource.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a critical part of RBM. It forms the basis for clear and accurate reporting on the results achieved by an intervention (project or programme). In this way, information reporting is no longer a headache, but becomes an opportunity for critical analysis and organizational learning, in forming decision-making and impact assessment. RBM supports better performance and greater accountability by applying a clear, logical framework to plan, manage and measure an intervention with a focus on the results you want to achieve. By identifying in advance the intended results of a project/programme and how we can measure their progress, we can better manage a project/programme and determine whether a difference has genuinely been made for the people concerned. However, at the heart of this matter rests the issue of conditions that might constrain achieving appropriate community participation. It is learned that public participation efficiency and effectiveness might be compromised by the difficulties faced by the community when it comes to understanding the technical reports and the complex planning issues (Jenkins, 1993). This consequently affect the community's ability to comprehend the decision making process. According to Bramwell and Sharman (1999), effective public participation is difficult to achieve if the residents are not equally represented within or as part of the whole group of stakeholders.

Scholars like Bamberger (2006) and Dobrea and Ciocoiu (2010) have argued that M&E of a project functions as an accountability mechanism, fostering greater transparency, enhances governance and democracy, and the voice of civil society. In addition, Shapiro (2011) reasons that M&E helps in identifying project areas that are on target and those that need to be adjusted or replaced. While monitoring focuses on tracking if a project follows the planned trend, evaluation checks efficiency, effectiveness and impact of a project by comparing between the actual and the planned achievements (Hunter, 2009; Wachamba, 2013). For instance, Ababa (2013) asserted that an estimated 35% of

improved rural water supplies in sub-Saharan Africa are non-operational and this scenario is no exception in Kenya.

When primary stakeholders can hold other stakeholders accountable, power shifts to them. Thus, the objective of improving accountability and empowerment are strongly related to each other (Wanjohi, 2010). Participation provides an opportunity to establish new habits of control, reporting and shared responsibility in development interventions. The people's participation also helps for an improved understanding of the role of the several stakeholders involved and the limitation of technical and financial resources that exist to address the problems of the poor (Mulwa, 2010). Programs and projects which integrate with and build on local management structures, have better prospects for promoting project sustainability (Mulwa, 2010). Converse to this, majority of community development projects in Kenya faces challenges of sustainability. In Kenya, (NETWAS International, 2009) noted that provision of water and sanitation services through projects is one thing and maintaining the services is quite another. Evaluations and assessments done a few years after commissioning of various WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) projects in developing countries, of which Kenya form part, come with the dismal report that the project is "dead", or it is performing far below par.

A study carried in Kenya by Oyugi found that Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) has not met its objectives of improving service delivery, financial management and debt reduction; and that the performance of the programmes has been constrained by inadequate capacity building, lack of a coherent monitoring and evaluation framework, and politicization of the programmes. The study recommends for the amendment of LATF regulations, provision of funds for capacity building in LAs, and putting in place a coherent monitoring and evaluation framework (Mitullah, 2005). In another study of Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) projects, Dulani (2003) concluded that the level of stakeholders' participation in M&E was limited to being informed what had already been decided by other key players which implied passive participation by consultation.

2.7 Theory of Planned Behavior

Postulated by Azjen (1991), the theory of planned behavior (TPB) is a generalized theory of human behavior in the social psychology literature that can be used to study a wide range of individual behaviors. It presumes that individual behavior represents conscious reasoned choice, and is shaped by cognitive thinking and social pressures. According to Scott, (2004) institutions are composed of three pillars: The cultural cognitive, normative and regulatory. The normative pillar refers to norms and values or how things ought to be done and the desired values and in this case is the structure of County Government of Bungoma South. Here, the social obligation is the basis of compliance on implementation of developed County projects. The cultural cognitive pillar considers the common beliefs, symbols and shared understanding. The theory postulates that behaviors are based on one's intention regarding that behavior, which in turn is a function of the person's attitude toward the behavior, subjective norm regarding that behavior, and perception of control over that behavior. Attitude is defined as the individual's overall positive or negative feelings about performing the behavior in question, which may be assessed as a summation of one's beliefs regarding the different consequences of that behavior, weighted by the desirability of those consequences.

Subjective norm refers to one's perception of whether people important to that person expect the person to perform the intended behavior, and represented as a weighted combination of the expected norms of different referent groups such as friends, colleagues, or supervisors at work. Behavioral control is one's perception of internal or external controls constraining the behavior in question. Internal controls may include the person's ability to perform the intended behavior (self-efficacy), while external control refers to the availability of external resources needed to perform that behavior (facilitating conditions). TPB also suggests that sometimes people may intend to perform a given behavior but lack the resources needed to do so and therefore suggests that posits that behavioral control can have a direct effect on behavior, in addition to the indirect effect mediated by intention. TPB is an extension of an earlier theory called the theory of reasoned action, which included attitude and subjective norm as key drivers of intention, but not behavioral control. The latter construct was added by Ajzen in TPB to account for

circumstances when people may have incomplete control over their own behaviors (such as not having high-speed Internet access for web surfing).

Countries in both developed and developing regions have used public input to pursue social goals; to reduce unemployment, raise labour standards, provide employment opportunities for disabled persons, and promote gender, racial and ethnic equality. Therefore, the theory of planned behaviour becomes the major driver in determining skills and knowledge acquired from community participation for effective implementation of development projects. The theory helps in determining community decision making, priorities, empowerment and involvement influence implementation of development projects in County Governments. The study used this theory to investigate factors influencing community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County, Kenya.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is a set of broad ideas and principles taken from relevant fields of enquiry and used to structure a subsequent presentation (Biklen 2003). In conducting the study, a conceptual framework was developed to show the relationship between the independent variables and dependent variable. In this study, the dependent variable is community participation in County development projects and the independent variables are; training, project planning, project execution and monitoring and evaluation. The constructs and relationships between research variables are illustrated in figure 1

Conceptual Framework

Indicators are shown by the main variables under the study to ensure that they are measurable.

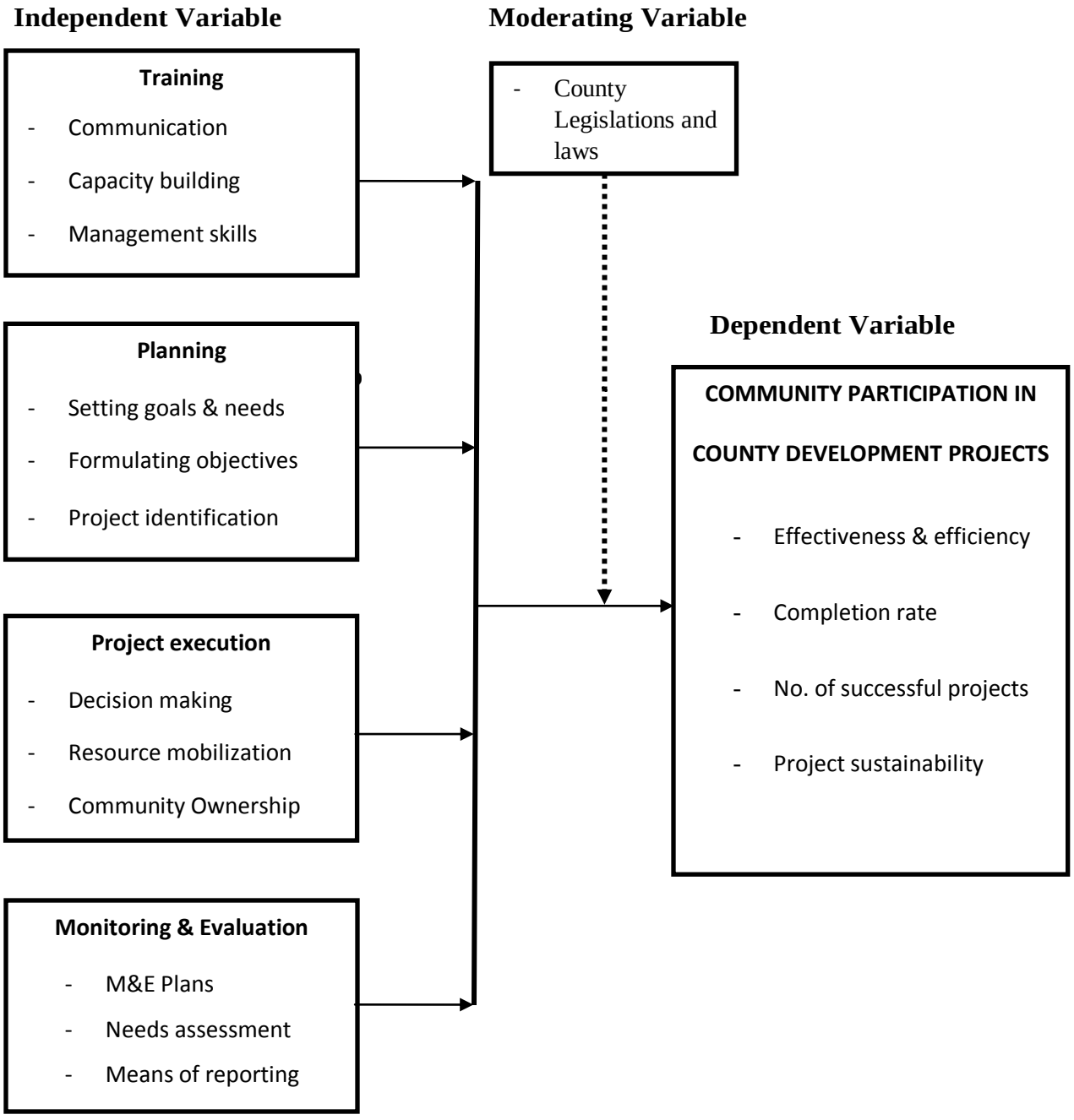

Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

2.9 Summary of the Related Literature

According to another perspective, public participation could also lead to better policy and implementation decisions and can thus be associated with a greater attainment of public programs' goals (Beierle & Cayford, 2002; Fagotto & Fung, 2009; Fung, 2004; Roberts, 1997; Sirianni, 2009; Stivers, 1990). ''Public input can provide information that helps managers improve public efficiency either allocative efficiency through better resource allocation choices or managerial efficiency through information that leads to improvement of the process of public service provision.''

2.10 Knowledge Gap

A participation method of governance and decision-making are deeply influenced by the contradictions, tensions, conflicts and struggles not merely the political relations of power but also the economic and ideological apparatus at local level (Pycroft, 2000; Williams, 2006; Piper & Deacon, 2008; Madzivhandila & Asha, 2012). In the cause of this endless rhetoric and multi platitudes, the very concept of community participation has been largely reduced to a cumbersome ritual (Williams, 2006). The situation highlights the complexity around the relationship between government and citizens and, most importantly, the failure to satisfy some of the obligations that flow from such convolution. In fact, this is a real concern because municipal IDPs lack specific relevant information, which should be provided to households, about services in a given period of time. This implies that there is a lack of transparency.

Concurrently, participation alone has not resulted in visible or desirable results as it so often reduced to a mere ceremonial presence of participants in local institution. Informed discussion and rational debates on the merits and demerits of specific planning programmes are literally non-existent, even though community participation features as a key component of planning programmes at the local level. According to Piper & Deacon (2008), the tension between individual's ambitions and collective goals on governing institutions is often mediated by party notions of accountability.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methodological approach for the study and it comprises the research design, target population, sampling size and sampling procedures, research instruments, data collection procedure and data analysis techniques and presentation.

3.2 Research Design

According to Green and Tull (2009), a research design is the specification of methods and procedures for acquiring the information needed. It is the over-all operational pattern or framework of the project that stipulates what information is to be collected from which source by what procedures. Research design is important as it prepares proper framework within which the research activity being carried out. The study employed descriptive research survey design. This study design was used since it involves gathering quantitative and qualitative data that described the nature and characteristics of the role of community participation in implementation of development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County, Kenya. Descriptive studies often employ the survey strategy (Easterby-Smith *et al.,* 2002; Robson, 2002). According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), descriptive research design is a type of design used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exists" with respect to variables or conditions in a situation at a given point in time. This is in line with the study purpose as it seeks to assess the role of community participation in implementation of development projects in Bungoma County. Moreover, this design gave this study the advantage of collecting original data for the purpose of describing a population directly hence good for the purpose of generalization (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007).

3.3 Target Population

Population is the entire set of units for which the study data are to be used to make inferences (Kothari, 2003). Target population defines those units for which the findings of the study are meant to be generalized from (Dempsey, 2003). It is the total collection

of elements about which the study wishes to make some inferences (Cooper & Schindler, 2008). The study targeted a population of 50 civil societies, 20 KNUT and KUPPET officials, 20 business representatives, 10 transport sector representatives, 30 religious groups, 10 administrators and 20 youth, women and PLWDs in Bungoma South Sub-County. The total target population was 160.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

This section describes sample size and sampling procedures that was used in sampling target population. More technical considerations suggest that the required sample size is a function of the precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the variability or variance, one expects to find in the population and the statistical level of confidence one wishes to use (Salant & Dillman, 1994).

3.4.1 Sample Size

A sample is a smaller group of a statistical population where properties are studied to gain information about the whole (Webster, 1985). Subjects included in this study were selected to meet specific criteria. Sample size depends on the nature of the analysis performed, the desired precision of the estimates one wishes to achieve, the kind and number of comparisons made, the number of variables examined simultaneously and how heterogeneous a universe is sampled. A sample of 160 was ideal using census techniques.

3.4.2 Sampling Procedures

Sampling is technique of selecting a suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population using a range of methods (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). It ensures that conclusions from the study can be generalized to the entire population. To avoid sampling and bias errors, the study used census technique since the population was small. In addition, stratified simple random sampling technique was used where the population of sampling frame was divided into the sub-set. Stratified sampling technique has the advantage of control of sample size in strata, increased statistical efficiency and enables use of different methods in strata.

3.5 Research Instruments

This refers to the tools to be used for collecting data and how these tools were developed. Preparation of data collection guidelines was done for this study. This helped to ensure standardization, consistency and reliability over time and among different people in data collection process. Double-checking was enhanced that all data required for indicators was being captured through at least one data source. Selection of the study tools was guided by the nature of data to be collected; factors influencing community participation in County development projects, and research questions of the study. The data collection instruments used in the study were questionnaire and interview schedule (quantitative and qualitative). In researching human beings, no single source of information can be trusted to provide a comprehensive perspective in any study program. As a result it was imperative to use several methods of data collection to improve on reliability and validity of data collected (Smith, 1975). Moreover, Schofield (1996) reported that using a combination of data sources and collection methods are a validating aspect which cross-checks data since the strength of one approach compensates for weaknesses of another approach (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2000).

A question is a technique of data collection in which each person is asked to respond to the same set of questions in a predetermined order (deVaus, 2002). Structured questionnaire will be used to collect the required information for the study. The questionnaire was administered to households. The questionnaire was divided into two sections; the first section covered background information of the respondents while the second section covered the research questions of the study. By using self-administered questionnaires, information on the study and other related data was sufficiently obtained. This method is chosen because it enables the researcher to obtain a lot of information in a small space. The instrument also ensured anonymity of respondents as their identities were not requested for. They were able to read and understand the questions on the questionnaire.

Oppenheim (2000) argued that a questionnaire should be used to collect precise data that the study requires to answer the research questions in order to achieve the objectives.

They were rated on a five point Likert scale as; **SA**: Strongly Agree, **A**: Agree **UD**: Undecided, **D**: Disagree, **SD**: Strongly Disagree.

An interview is a purposeful discussion between two or more people (Robson, 2002). An interview guide was used for the purpose of collecting primary data. This was conducted to management representatives of various stratified groups. According to Mcmillan and Schumacher (2001) an interview guide is flexible and adaptable as it involves direct interaction between individuals. The study interviews were used because they are appropriate and effective. The interview guide list all the study questions being asked giving room for the interviewer to write answers and questions related directly to the study questions. Structured interviews are easier to analyze, economical and provide a basis for generalization (Kothari, 2004).

3.5.1 Pilot Study

A pilot study was important in shaping future research instruments. According to Kothari (2004), pilot study reveals deficiencies in the design of proposed research instruments. This helped to detect problematic questions or techniques, verify collection time, identify potential ethical issues and build the competence of data collectors. From the pilot study, improvements were made on the research instruments. During this process, the study tools were translated and back-translated to ensure that they were subjective and objective. This enhanced that the tools were linguistically accurate, culturally compatible and operated smoothly. It was carried out on 16 respondents from Bungoma South Sub-County, being obtained from minimum 10% of Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) of the sample size. Piloting helped to reveal validity and reliability of the instrument by pointing out ambiguities and flaws in the questions so that data collected was relevant to the objectives of the study. Lloyd (1994) asserted that "even the most carefully constructed instrument cannot guarantee to obtain a hundred per cent reliable data."

3.5.2 Validity of the Research Instruments

Refers to the extent to which data collection strategies and instruments measure what they intend to measure. *Internal validity* refers to the accuracy of the data in reflecting the reality of the programme, while *external validity* refers to the generalizability of study

results to other groups, settings, treatments and outcomes. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2009), validity is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of data actually represent the phenomena under study. The concept of reliability has two aspects to it; internal and external reliability. Internal reliability is the ability of a scale to measure a single idea and whether it is internally consistent; its reliability can be computed. A valid instrument should accurately measure what it is supposed to measure. Validity refers to the extent to which an empirical measure adequately reflects the real meaning of the subject under investigation. To enhance validity of instruments, pre-testing was done to determine whether or not the questions were acceptable, answerable and well understood. The feedback was used to validate the instruments in readiness for the study. For validation purposes the researcher incorporated input of the experts in formulating questionnaire and interview guide as per each research question. In order to specify and determine the content validity of the research instruments the researcher consulted supervisors whose contributions was used to improve questionnaire to ensure that the instruments were availed to collect data from the intended study population.

3.5.3 Reliability of the Research Instruments

Reliability is the consistency of the research instrument. Mugenda and Mugenda (2009) observe that reliability is a measure of degree to which a research will yield consistent results after repeated trials. To ensure reliability of the research instruments, the questionnaire used for this study was scrutinized by the research supervisor and modified to fit the objectives. The researcher did a pilot study to determine the reliability and employed Cronbach's alpha Coefficient to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire.

As a general rule a value of $\alpha > 0.7$ was deemed reliable enough for each data sets where α is the item being tested for reliability. Therefore, a value equal to or >0.7 was considered in computation of reliability scores. This criterion was met where an α of 0.83 was obtained through computation of pre-tested questionnaire. Pre-testing the questionnaire was done in Bumula Sub-County using a sample of 10% of the sampled population which was 16 respondents. This helped to reveal vague questions, deficiency

in questions and test if the research instruments were capable of collecting data required for the study.

3.6 Data Collection Procedures

After defence of proposal, the researcher acquired research permit to conduct this study from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) using an online application mechanism. The researcher informed various community representatives about the purpose of the intended study and booked appointments for data collection in various wards.

3.7 Data Analysis Techniques and Presentation

After data collection, a master codebook was designed to ensure that all the questionnaires were coded uniformly. Each data collected was checked for consistency in order to eliminate misleading information which could arise from misrepresentation of the questions. Descriptive method of data analysis was employed in analysis of quantitative and qualitative data. The item mean, frequencies and percentages were applied. The findings of the study were presented using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages in tables. Analysis of data was aided by Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. This technique has the advantage of easy presentations of findings in form of graphs and tables if need be (Triola, 2008).

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Access and ethics were critical aspects for the conduct of research. The researcher carefully planned to ensure physical access/entry to the sampled groups targeted for the study. Formal negotiations with the community representatives for entry into the locations was sought to help gain informal acceptance from the intended participants within various wards of the Sub-County in order to obtain relevant data (Robson, 2002). In addition, gaining permission and maintaining access created sufficient scope to address fully the research questions and objectives (Sekaran, 2000). During this research process, the researcher upheld integrity and high moral standards. This involved providing a clear account of purpose and type of access required; ensured the use of suitable language and facilitating ease of reply when requesting access and establishing credibility with the

intended participants (Easterby-Smith *et al.*, 2002). This assisted the researcher to remain incorruptible in circumstances of collusion with the intended participants of the study

Moreover, overcoming institutional concerns about granting access was highly considered. This involved minimum time consumed during tool administration, sensitivity of the research topic as purely academic but not to jeopardize group image and participants' information was regarded confidential where anonymity was provided by ensuring respondents did not indicate their identities on the questionnaires (Robson, 2002; Zikmund, 2000). This led to a data protection issue related to the use of personal data.

3.9 Operational Definition of Variables

Table 1 Operational Definition of Variables

STUDY OBJECTIVE	TYPE OF VARIABLE	INDICATORS	METHOD OF ANALYSIS	PRESENTATION
To establish how training influence Community Participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County	**Independent:** Training	- Communication - Capacity building - Management skills	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	Dependent: Community participation in CGDP	Effectiveness & efficiency No. of projects completion rate, sustainability	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To determine the extent to which planning influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County	**Independent:** planning	- setting goals & priorities - formulating objectives - project identification	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	Dependent: Community participation in CGDP	Effectiveness & efficiency No. of projects completion rate, sustainability	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To determine the extent to which project execution influence Community Participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County	**Independent:** Project execution	- decision making - mobilization - Ownership	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	Dependent: Community participation in CGDP	Effectiveness & efficiency No. of projects completion rate, sustainability	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
To assess how Monitoring and Evaluation influence Community Participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County.	**Independent:** M&E	- M&E Plans - Needs assessment - Means of reporting	Frequencies and percentages	Tables
	Dependent: Community participation in CGDP	Effectiveness & efficiency No. of projects completion rate, sustainability	Frequencies and percentages	Tables

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with data analysis, presentation and interpretation of the findings. In the first section, descriptive statistics are used to provide background information of the respondents who participated in this study. The second section presents the analysis of the responses to specific objectives of the study as provided by the respondents in the questionnaire.

4.2 Questionnaire Return Rate

A total of 160 questionnaires dispatched to management and employees out of which 148 were duly filled and returned giving a response rate of 92.5 per cent. Table 2 shows the questionnaire return rate for the study.

Table 2 Questionnaire Return Rate

Category	Issued	Returned	Return rate (%)
Civil societies	50	48	96.0
KNUT/KUPPET	20	18	90.0
Religious groups	30	27	90.0
Administrators	10	10	100.0
Business	20	19	95.0
Transport sector	10	9	90.0
Youth, Women &PLWDs	20	17	85.0
Total	**160**	**148**	**92.5**

As presented in Table 2, the percentage return rate was 92.5 per cent. Nachmias and Nachmias (2009) reported that 80 to 90 per cent return rate is enough for a descriptive research study. This questionnaire return rate (92.5%) was appropriate for data analysis

and discussion providing simple description of the variables involved. Therefore, the return rate boosted the reliability of the results. Although the results may be interpreted to indicate a very good response rate, a failure of 7.5 per cent to report may be explained by lack of commitment in filling the questionnaire.

4.3 Demographic Information of the Respondents

The demographic information captured data on gender, age and working experience.

4.3.1 Gender of the Respondents

The study established gender and its influence on community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and responses are stated in Table 3.

Table 3 Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	95	64.2
Female	53	35.8
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As portrayed in Table 3, 95 (64.2%) of the respondents were male and 53 (35.2%) were female. The result shows that of the primary stakeholders, men were more involved in County Development Projects by over 28% as compared to their counterpart women. It is very important to make sure that minority groups, low status groups and poorer groups in a community are not left out and women and youth are specified in consultation processes. Ultimately, consideration of gender issues benefits everyone.

4.3.2 Age of the Respondents

The study sought to determine age distribution of the respondents. This is a demographic feature that tends to influence behavior or perception of the respondents. Findings are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Ages of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 30 Yrs	44	29.7
31-40 Yrs	20	13.5
41-50 Yrs	68	46.0
>50 Yrs	16	10.8
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As portrayed in Table 4 shows that 44 (29.7%) of the respondents were below 30 years, 20 (13.5%) ranged between 31-40 years, 68 (46.0%) ranged between 41-50 years and 16 (10.8%) ranging over 50 years. The mass composition of the community participation beneficiaries was 68 (46.0%) ranging from 41-50 years. The lowest representation was old age over 50 years at 16 (10.7%). The mean age of the respondents from the study was 36 years. This clearly indicates that communities of Bungoma South Sub-County are largely represented by youthful population in implementation of County Development projects.

4.3.3 Academic Qualifications of the Respondents

The study sought to determine highest academic qualifications of the respondents in the County of Bungoma South. Results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Academic Qualifications of the Respondents

Academic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Secondary	21	14.2
Diploma	65	43.9
Degree	49	33.1
Masters	13	8.8
Total	**148**	**100.0**

The results in Table 5 shows that 21 (14.2%) of the respondents had secondary education, 65 (43.9%) were diploma holders and 49 (33.1%) were degree holders while 13 (8.8%) of

the respondents were having masters. Greater proportion, 65 (43.9%) of the community participants in County Development Projects of Bungoma South Sub-County possessed diplomas as their highest academic qualification. It should be noted that a few of the respondents had Masters as highest level of education by 13 (8.8%) responses.

4.3.4 Occupation of the Respondents

Respondents were asked to point out the type of occupation which individual possessed that enabled them to meet their daily family needs. Results are shown in Table 6.

Table 6 Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	21	14.2
Entrepreneur	63	42.7
Professionals	49	33.1
Artisans	15	10.0
Total	**148**	**100.0**

The results in Table 6 shows that most of respondents were entrepreneurs owning small businesses for example shop owners, vegetables, animal keeping, carpenters and restaurants maids and owners by 63 (42.7%) and are the ones who participate more in development projects. In addition, 49 (33.1%) were professionals, and 21 (14.2%) were farmers while 15 (10.0%) of the respondents were artisans. Local projects work best when all involved professionals and local people, feel that their concerns are being addressed.

4.4 Training and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Training of the community has the ability of project initiators to strengthen the capacities of local communities at the periphery through resource allocation (financial, human, social and material), technical education, skill training and organizational support. The study sought to establish how training influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County on a five point likert scale:-

[SA]=Strongly Agree, **[A]=**Agree, **[UD]=**Undecided, **[D]**=Disagree and **[SD]=**strongly Disagree under the following themes:

4.4.1 Communication and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The respondents were asked to give their responses concerning the extent to which communication influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and findings are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Communication with Stakeholders in Development Projects

Communication	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	40	27.1
Agree	66	44.6
Undecided	3	2.0
Disagree	19	12.8
Strongly Disagree	20	13.5
Total	**148**	**100.0**

Results in Table 7 shows that 40 (27.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that communication with stakeholders influence community participation in County Development Projects, 66 (44.6%) agreed, 3 (2.0%) were undecided and 19 (12.8%) disagreed while 20 (13.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 66 (44.6%) of the respondents in Bungoma South Sub-county asserted that communication with stakeholders through information sharing from the county government to the community and consultation forums influence active participation of community in development projects.

These findings are similar to those by Cavric (2011) who asserted that community participation stimulates information exchange between all the development stakeholders which will further enhance mutual understanding and relations between them, resulting into unreserved support for the specific project in question. To a greater extent, community participation stimulates information exchange between all the proposed

development's stakeholders which further enhance mutual understanding and relationship between the stakeholders and resulting in the government and the proposed development enjoying instilled support (Cavric, 2011). Equally, Kwena (2013) examined the factors affecting community participation in the management of development projects through LASDAP in Narok County; Kilgoris Constituency. The study established very low community participation in LASDAP process, limited awareness through communication coming out strongly as one of the reasons for poor local involvement in the development projects. Information regarding managerial and accountability of projects remains unknown in the absence of community participation.

4.4.2 Capacity Building and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Capacity building refers to the means by which a community can tap into its own strengths. "Capacity building places the emphasis on existing strengths and abilities, rather than being overwhelmed by problems or feelings of powerlessness" Community capacity building cannot occur in a vacuum. To help a community come terms with the extent of the issues it is facing, context needs to be provided. With regard to capacity building, the respondents were asked to state their opinion whether county government provides adequate capacity building to community stakeholders and findings are shown in Table 8.

Table 8 County Government provides adequate Capacity building to Stakeholders

capacity building	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	33	22.3
Agree	21	14.2
Undecided	8	5.4
Disagree	72	48.6
Strongly Disagree	14	9.5
Total	**148**	**100.0**

Findings in Table 8 show that 33 (22.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government provides adequate capacity building to stakeholders in development of projects, 21 (14.2%) agreed, 8 (5.4%) were undecided and 72 (48.6%) disagreed while 14 (9.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 72 (48.6%) of the respondents disagreed hence inadequate capacity building resulted into low community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. This is because capacity building creates stronger community relationships and sets the stage for enhanced ability of community members to share ideas on a course of action. There is also an increased ability to set and realize common goals in the action plan. The community begins to have a collective appreciation and respect of the limited resources, both in human and financial terms. Capacity building also increases awareness of the issues and promotes community advocacy to make a difference. Public input can provide information that helps managers improve public efficiency—either allocative efficiency through better resource allocation choices or managerial efficiency through information that leads to improvement of the process of public service provision.

These findings are similar to those by Beierle and Cayford (2002); Fung (2004); Moynihan (2003) and Sirianni (2009) who asserted that citizens often possess local knowledge and can propose innovative solutions that would lead to better resource allocation decisions and thus better effectiveness. This results in a more individualized reflection of the community and helps to shape the action plan of what resources and supports are needed. Outcomes of community capacity building involve expanded intuition on what to do, when to do it and when to quit. Capacity building taps into the natural leadership skills of those in the community and acknowledges and nurtures the interest in young people to be leaders.

4.4.3 Management Skills and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The study sought to establish community management skills and their influence on community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and findings are illustrated in Table 9.

Table 9 County Government provides adequate Project Management Skills

Management Skills	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	29	19.6
Agree	48	32.4
Undecided	3	2.1
Disagree	56	37.8
Strongly Disagree	12	8.1
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As presented in Table 9, findings show that 29 (19.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government provides adequate project management skills in terms of financial management, 48 (32.4%) agreed, 3 (2.1%) were undecided and 56 (37.8%) disagreed while 12 (8.1%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 56 (37.3%) of the respondents disagreed that there limited financial management skills, which are realized through technical and expertise required to successfully implementing the project. Therefore, inadequate community management skills through training by county Governments do not encourage effective community participation in promoting transparency, accountability in governance and creating ownership of development decisions as well as programmes and projects. This study argues that institutional and management capacity is a recipe to effective project implementation as it encourages participation and involvement of the community in all the processes of project implementation, hence people feeling empowered. Empowered people have freedom of choice and action, which in turn enables them to better influence the course of their lives and the decisions which affect them.

These results are similar to those by Weinberg (2008) who asserted that community based projects are complex and require multifaceted management skills and that good management skills ensures that sufficient local resources and capacity exist to continue the project in the absence of outside resources (McDade, 2004). Therefore, institutions and management involved in project implementation from the community to the national or international levels need to be empowered in terms of information, skills and resources (human and capital) for smooth running of activities for sustainability of projects.

4.5 Planning and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Project planning is basically a process of making decisions that will carry into future actions. Decisions have to be made about `what the present situation is, how it could and ought to be changed and what means can be used to accomplish the new and more desirable situations. This is a conscious effort to meet the needs, interests and wants of the people for whom the programme is intended. The study sought to determine how planning influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County under the following themes:

4.5.1 Setting Goals and Priorities and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The respondents were asked to state the level community involvement in setting goals and priorities during project planning in development and implementation of County Government projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and the results are indicated in Table 10.

Table 10 Setting of Goals and Priorities in County Government Projects

Setting Goals and priorities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	27	18.2
Agree	40	27.0
Undecided	6	4.1
Disagree	51	34.5
Strongly Disagree	24	16.2
Total	**148**	**100.0**

From Table 10, findings show that 27 (18.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that during proposed project's planning phase, community is involved in setting goals and priorities through consultations with the government officials, 40 (27.0%) agreed, 6 (4.1%) were undecided and 51 (34.5%) disagreed while 24 (16.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 51 (34.5%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement. Furthermore, the respondents cited low level of adoption of project proposal, publication of the final plan and administration of the ideal proposed project by community stakeholders. Therefore, the Community has little opportunity to submit ideas and proposals for the planning work. However, 40 (27.0%) of the respondents asserted that citizen input allows public officials to better understand public priorities and reduce wasteful projects, which in turn leads to better efficiency. A participation method of governance and decision-making are deeply influenced by the contradictions, tensions, conflicts and struggles not merely the political relations of power but also the economic and ideological apparatus at local level.

The results are in agreement with those of Mbambo and Tshishonga (2008) who reported that planning and implementation of these projects should be accepted only after considerable discussion and consultation with communities. This process allows marginalized individuals to have voices in the future development initiatives. Hence, it enables for full involvement of ordinary members of the community in decision making,

planning, designing, organizing and executing development initiative that affect them. According to McEwan (2003), the act of including the voices and concerns of beneficiaries in the projects and other development initiatives that are meant to help them offers a counter weight to traditional top-down development approach.

4.5.2 Formulation of Objectives and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Given the effort that is required to form and maintain a successful partnership, one might sensibly ask why bother. It is essential in the programme planning process that before deciding on the projects to be undertaken, the basic objectives of the programmes are determined by the villagers in consultation with the county officials. This means that villagers must have a very clear understanding of the projects so that they are able to set up appropriate objectives for village projects. Therefore, the respondents were asked to state the level of community involvement in formulation of objectives during project's planning phase and the results are illustrated in Table 11

Table 11 Community involvement in Formulation of Project Objectives

Formulation of objectives	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	28	18.9
Agree	33	22.3
Undecided	3	2.0
Disagree	69	46.6
Strongly Disagree	15	10.2
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As portrayed in Table 11, findings show that 28 (18.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that throughout the project planning process, the County Government officials operates at an in-depth level with the community in formulating and preparing SMART objects of development projects, 33 (22.3%) agreed, 3 (2.0%) were undecided and 69 (46.6%) disagreed while 15 (10.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. An

overwhelming majority, 69 (46.0%) of the respondents disagreed to community involvement in formulation of programme objectives. This requires Integrated Development Planning (IDP) between county Government and ward committees to allow for co-ordination between different stakeholders and wards to better understand the dynamics that exist in their development areas and enable them to meet the needs of communities and improve their quality of life by developing clear visions and strategies. The ward committees are expected to play a major role in ensuring participation of citizens in the IDP process. This kind of planning requires functional ward committees who develop plans for their own wards, and link ward priorities to the integrated development planning of the wards.

These findings are supported by Tshabalala and Lombard (2009) who asserted that in project development and implementation, IDP should be viewed as bridging together of many stakeholders as possible to delineate, define and promote their common interest. It enables communities and local stakeholders to define their goals, needs and related priorities in a municipal area. This could be achieved through structured participation and establishing the conditions for public's involvement throughout the cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review (Mubangizi, 2007). IDP is supposed to be the business plan of each ward based on *what* and *how* it is going to benefit the communities under its jurisdiction. The communities should be informed, consulted and be allowed to participate in the planning process that concerns their needs and future.

4.5.3 Project Identification and Community Participation in County Development Projects

A good participation process needs to be effective, which means the community needs to participate at various stages of planning and development. The study sought to establish extent to which community involvement in project identification and its influence on community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. The results are illustrated in Table 12.

Table 12 Community Involvement in Project Identification in County Development Projects

Project Identification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	36	24.3
Agree	63	42.6
Undecided	8	5.4
Disagree	28	18.9
Strongly Disagree	13	8.8
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As portrayed in Table 12, findings show that 36 (24.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community has decision input with regard to project identification during planning of County development projects, 63 (42.6%) agreed, 8 (5.4%) were undecided and 28 (18.9%) disagreed while 13 (8.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Moreover, community participates in a partnership process and decision-making is joined between the County Officials and the public as revealed by majority, 63 (42.6%) responses. It serves as a link for early coordination and leads to project effectiveness and continuity of the projects in respective wards.

These results are echoed to early findings by Lukensmeyer, Goldman and Stern (2011) who asserted that public participation is also vital in preparing an efficiently better planning framework as a result of better understanding of stakeholders' demands and needs which thus leads to effective resource planning and management. Interestingly, the act of participating in structuring the development plan enables the citizens to minimize political and administration problems while promoting transparency within the professionals' environment which in turn address perceptions of inequality of power.

4.6 Project Execution and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Project execution is the phase where visions and plans become reality. This is the logical conclusion, after evaluating, deciding, visioning, planning, allocation of funds and finding the financial resources of a project. The study sought to establish project execution influence community participation in County Development Projects under the following themes:

4.6.1 Decision Making and Community Participation in County Development Projects

A properly planned project addresses the real *needs of the beneficiaries* and is therefore based upon a correct and complete analysis of the existing situation. The existing situation should be interpreted according to the views, needs, interests and activities of *parties concerned*. The respondents were asked to state whether community decision making influence community participation and the results are depicted in Table 13.

Table 13 Decision Making in County Development Projects

Decision making	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	22	14.9
Agree	55	37.2
Undecided	10	6.8
Disagree	46	31.0
Strongly Disagree	15	10.1
Total	**148**	**100.0**

From Table 13, findings show that 22 (14.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there is community involvement during project implementation in County Government projects, 55 (37.2%) agreed, 10 (6.8%) were undecided and 46 (31.0%) disagreed while 15 (10.1%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 55 (37.2%) of the respondents undoubtedly asserted that local community involvement in the decision making process enhance the outcome of the framework of a proposed development plan,

though they do not have a good understanding of how design participation processes were made.

The study findings are similar to those by Bryson *et al.,* (2013); Yang and Pandey (2011) who demonstrated the existence government administrators, officials, and community leaders have long recognized the value of public participation for a variety of purposes, processes, and decisions. The differential outcome of participatory democracy arises in part from a complexity of uneven power relations, trust and lack of belief in having a long-term impact on the status quo, often people do not trust their representatives as they are mostly co-opted by systems and are thus perceived as not being caring about their wards whom they are supposed to represent and account to. Citizens also express disinterest because cynical public officials simply go through the motions of including them with no real commitment to change (Pycroft, 2000).

4.6.2 Resource Mobilization and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The respondents were asked to state their opinion concerning resource mobilization in project implementation in County Government development project and the results are depicted in Table 14.

Table 14 Resource Mobilization in County Development Projects

Resource Mobilization	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	45	30.4
Agree	84	56.8
Undecided	0	0.0
Disagree	12	8.1
Strongly Disagree	7	4.7
Total	**148**	**100.0**

From Table 14, findings show that 45 (30.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community resource mobilization influence community participation in County development projects, 84 (56.8%) agreed, 0 (0.0%) were undecided and 12 (8.1%) disagreed while 7 (4.7%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. This result indicates that resource mobilization for development projects and community participation walks in continuum with each other creating a composite industrial environment because more than half, 86 (57.3%) of the respondents agreed. They are also involved directly in community's contributions in the forms of labour, money, resources, materials as well as time spent on management process and take part in activities that they have agreed upon, which ultimately enhance completion rate of projects in respective wards.

These findings are greatly echoed to those of Holder and Moore (2000) who supported developing local resources for enhanced sustainability emphasizing the importance of adequate local capacities to generate funds after external funding ceases.

4.6.3 Project Ownership and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Project ownership is the process where the community participates fully in community-based projects, accepts and owns the outcome of a project at the end and beyond the project period. The results are illustrated in Table 15.

Table 15 Project Ownership in County Development Projects

Project Ownership	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	36	24.3
Agree	63	42.6
Undecided	6	4.1
Disagree	30	20.3
Strongly Disagree	13	8.7
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As portrayed in Table 15, results show that 36 (24.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community acceptance and project ownership promote project support by all stakeholders involved in the project, 63 (44.6%) agreed, 6 (4.1%) were undecided and 30 (20.3%) disagreed while 13 (8.7%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. An overwhelming majority 63 (44.6%) of the respondents complete project ownership influence community participation in County Development Projects in respective wards hence reducing community resistance in participation in project activities. This aspect contributes to project efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability beyond County Government officials' withdrawal. However, at the heart of this matter rests the issue of conditions that might constrain achieving appropriate community project ownership.

These results are echoed to early findings by Nzimakwe and Reddy (2008) who argues that community participation form part of domestic engagement and citizenship which is fundamental to the principle of good local governance. It incorporates the poor and marginalized in local affairs, to take ownership of local resources and make appropriate decisions to use such resources in a sustainable manner. Chappel (2005) indicates that community support increases project efficiency, which impacts positively on project sustainability. Further, Akerlund (2005) highlighted that community support increases project effectiveness as it helps to ensure that the project achieves its objectives and that benefits go to the intended groups. Where project ownership is exclusive, those in control are less likely to respond positively to the needs and ideas of the wider group. This can have a long-term impact on project sustainability.

4.7 Monitoring and Evaluation and Community Participation in County Development Projects

A well-functioning M&E system is a critical part of good project/programme management and accountability. Timely and reliable M&E provides information to support project/programme implementation, uphold accountability and compliance, contribute to organizational learning and knowledge sharing and provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback. Therefore, the study sought to assess the extent to M&E

influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County under the following themes:

4.7.1 M&E Plans and Community Participation in County Development Projects

An M&E plan is a table that builds upon a project/programme's log frame to detail key M&E requirements for each indicator and assumption. Therefore, the respondents were asked to state whether county Government officials involved the community in making M&E plans and the results are depicted in Table 16.

Table 16 Community Involvement in Making Project M&E Plans

M&E Plans	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	24	16.2
Agree	41	27.7
Undecided	10	6.8
Disagree	55	37.2
Strongly Disagree	18	12.1
Total	**148**	**100.0**

From Table 16, findings show that 22 (16.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed that County officials involve community in making M&E plans, 41 (27.7%) agreed, 10 (6.8%) were undecided and 55 (37.2%) disagreed while 18 (12.1%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 55 (37.2%) of the respondents disagreed to community involvement in M&E plans with the county officials. Although planning techniques differ from project to project but details of M&E requirements for each indicator and assumption are essential. It is best that the M&E plan is developed by those who will be using it. Their involvement also contributes to data quality because it reinforces their understanding of what data they are to collect and how it will be collected. With the highest proportion of stakeholders being excluded in M&E plans which should be completed during the planning stage of a project/programme (before implementation). Planning an M&E system based on stakeholder needs and expectations helps to ensure

understanding, ownership and use of M&E information. It is essential to have a clear understanding of the priorities and information needs of people interested in or affected by the project/programme. Therefore, only a few projects in Bungoma South Sub-County are likely to be sustainable due to the strategies integrated before the projects are completed hence inadequate M&E system. Local projects work best when all involved professionals and local people, feel that their concerns are being addressed.

These findings are closely echoed to those by Mitullah (2005) in a study carried in Kenya by Oyugi found that Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) has not met its objectives of improving service delivery, financial management and debt reduction; and that the performance of the programmes has been constrained by inadequate capacity building, *lack of a coherent monitoring and evaluation framework*, and politicization of the programmes. In another study of Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) projects, Dulani (2003) concluded that the level of stakeholders' participation in M&E was limited to being informed what had already been decided by other key players which implied passive participation by consultation.

4.7.2 Needs Assessment and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Needs assessment is a critical part of M&E system where the beneficiaries and project team determines project implementation. Critical questions such as what did we observe? And did we find? So what do we conclude? And then what do we recommend? So how should we respond? And what do we plan now are important in needs assessment. The respondents were asked to state their opinion on whether community is involved in project needs assessment with county officials and its influence on community participation in County development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and the results are illustrated in Table 17.

Table 17 Community Involvement in Project Needs Assessment with County Officials

Needs Assessment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	25	16.9
Agree	37	25.0
Undecided	5	3.4
Disagree	65	43.9
Strongly Disagree	16	10.8
Total	**148**	**100.0**

From Table 17, findings show that 25 (16.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community is involved in project needs assessment with County Officials during M&E, 37 (25.0%) agreed, 5 (3.4%) were undecided and 65 (43.9%) disagreed while 16 (10.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. An overwhelming 65 (43.9%) of the respondents disagreed to community involvement in project needs assessment with County Officials during M&E. This is done to determine whether a project/programme is needed and, if so, to inform its planning. Initial needs assessment foster stakeholder motivations, experience and commitment, as well as align to political and other constraints under which various stakeholders operate. It is especially important that local knowledge is sought when planning M&E functions to ensure that they are relevant to and feasible in the local context, and that M&E information is credible, accepted and more likely to be supported. In addition, participatory evaluations are conducted with the beneficiaries and other key stakeholders, and can be empowering, building their capacity, ownership and support. They help to build consensus at different levels, credibility and joint support. Moreover, Ajzen asserted in TPB that there are circumstances when people may have incomplete control over their own behaviors. Inadequacy of community involvement in projects needs assessment reflects weak M&E system in County Government development projects hence no accountability and sustainability.

These findings are not aligned to prospect of Mulwa (2010) who reported that programs and projects which integrate with and build on local management structures, have better prospects for promoting project sustainability. In addition, Shapiro (2011) reasons that needs assessment in M&E helps in identifying project areas that are on target and those that need to be adjusted or replaced. This helps in checking efficiency, effectiveness and impact of a project by comparing between the actual and the planned achievements (Hunter, 2009; Wachamba, 2013). Converse to this, majority of community development projects in Kenya faces challenges of sustainability where projects in developing countries, of which Kenya form part, come with the dismal report that the project is "dead", or it is performing far below par.

4.7.3 Means of Reporting and Community Participation in County Development Projects

A complaints and feedback mechanism provides a means for stakeholders to provide comment and voice complaints about the project's work. They provide valuable insights and data for the ongoing monitoring and periodical evaluation of a project. They help to anticipate and address potential problems, increase accountability and credibility, and reinforce morale and ownership. The respondents were asked to state adequacy on means of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanisms of projects in County Government of Bungoma South Sub-County and the results are shown in Table 18.

Table 18 Adequacy of Reporting Stakeholders Complaints and Feedback

Adequacy of reporting	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	30	20.3
Agree	35	23.6
Undecided	9	6.1
Disagree	53	35.8
Strongly Disagree	21	14.2
Total	**148**	**100.0**

As revealed in Table 18, results show that 30 (20.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there is adequacy of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanism, 35 (23.6%) agreed, 9 (6.1%) were undecided and 53 (35.8%) disagreed while 21 (14.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Majority, 53 (35.3%) of the respondents disagreed that County Government officials have adequacy means of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanism. Inadequate reporting mechanisms limit participatory evaluation on aspects of project impact, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and relevance. The main objective of a properly instituted reporting mechanisms helps to monitor the strategic direction for the project in line with set objectives. This allows the project/programme team to cross-check the logframe and ensures that the indicators and scope of work they represent in project/programme implementation and data collection, analysis and reporting are realistic to field realities and team capacities.

These results differ significantly to those by Wanjohi (2010) who asserted that participation provides an opportunity to establish new habits of control, reporting and shared responsibility in development interventions. The people's participation also helps for an improved understanding of the role of the several stakeholders involved and the limitation of technical and financial resources that exist to address the problems of the poor (Mulwa, 2010).When primary stakeholders can hold other stakeholders accountable, power shifts to them. Thus, the objective of improving accountability and empowerment are strongly related to each other. For instance, Ababa (2013) asserted that an estimated 35% of improved rural water supplies in sub-Saharan Africa are non-operational and this scenario is no exception in Kenya.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summary of findings, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further study.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study investigated factors influencing community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and it registered questionnaire return rate of 92.5 per cent. It is very important to make sure that minority groups, low status groups and poorer groups in a community are not left out and women and youth are specified in consultation processes. Demographic information reveals that more than 28% of male participants compared to female counterparts took part in the study. Majority of the respondents were between 41-50 years by 46.0% responses. The mean age of the study population was xxx years. Results also indicate that 43.9% of the respondents were diploma holders.

5.2.1 Training and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The study sought to establish how training influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. On whether community is involved in communication with stakeholders in development projects, results show that 27.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that communication with stakeholders influence community participation in County Development Projects, 44.6% agreed, 2.0% were undecided and 12.8% disagreed while 13.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

With regard to capacity building and community participation in County Development Projects, findings show that 22.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government provides adequate capacity building to stakeholders in development of

projects, 14.2% agreed, 5.4% were undecided and 48.6% disagreed while 9.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Concerning management skills and community participation in County Development Projects, 19.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that County Government provides adequate project management skills in terms of financial management, 32.4% agreed, 2.1% were undecided and 37.8% disagreed while 8.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

5.2.2 Planning and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The study sought to determine how planning influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma and findings show that 18.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that during proposed project's planning phase, community is involved in setting goals and priorities through consultations with the government officials, 27.0% agreed, 4.1% were undecided and 34.5% disagreed while 16.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

It is essential in the programme planning process that before deciding on the projects to be undertaken, the basic objectives of the programmes are determined by the villagers in consultation with the county officials. Findings show that 18.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that throughout the project planning process, the County Government officials operates at an in-depth level with the community in formulating and preparing SMART objects of development projects, 22.3% agreed, 2.0% were undecided and 46.6% disagreed while 10.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Furthermore, the study sought to establish extent to which community involvement in project identification and its influence on community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County and the results show that 24.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that community has decision input with regard to project identification during planning of County Development Projects, 42.6% agreed, 5.4% were undecided and 18.9% disagreed while 8.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

5.2.3 Project Execution and Community Participation in County Development Projects

Project execution is the phase where visions and plans become reality. The third objective was to determine the extent to which project execution influence community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County. Concerning community decision making, findings show that 14.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is community involvement during project implementation in County Government projects, 37.2% agreed, 6.8% were undecided and 31.0% disagreed while 10.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

On resource mobilization in project implementation and its influence on community participation, findings show that 30.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that partnership approach requires corporate governance system in decision making, 56.8% agreed, 0.0% were undecided and 8.1% disagreed while 4.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Moreover, responses on project ownership shows that 24.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that community acceptance and project ownership promote project support by all stakeholders involved in the project, 44.6% agreed, 4.1% were undecided and 20.3% disagreed while 8.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

5.2.4 Monitoring & Evaluation and Community Participation in County Development Projects

The last objective dealt with monitoring and evaluation and community participation. On whether county Government officials involved the community in making M&E plans, findings show that 16.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that County officials involve community in making M&E plans, 27.7% agreed, 6.8% were undecided and 37.2% disagreed while 12.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The study also sought to establish whether community is involved in project needs assessment with county officials and its influence on community participation and findings show that 16.9% of

the respondents strongly agreed that community is involved in project needs assessment with County Officials during M&E, 25.0% agreed, 3.4% were undecided and 43.9% disagreed while 10.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Lastly, the study sought to establish adequacy of means of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanisms of projects in County Government of Bungoma South Sub-County. Findings show that 20.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is adequacy of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanism, 23.6% agreed, 6.1% were undecided and 35.8% disagreed while 14.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

5.3 Conclusion

Based on findings, the study concludes that:

i. Training aspects of community in County development projects were inadequate in Bungoma South Sub-County though very critical component that influence community participation. The public lacked capacity building and financial management skills. Therefore, County management officials are responsible of making decisions and strategic planning of the projects hence community exclusion from pertinent issues of the projects
ii. Findings reveal that low level of community involvement in planning County Government development projects through setting goals and formulation of project objectives. There was element of project identification with the community but the first should be Integrated Development Planning between County Government and ward committees to allow for co-ordination between different stakeholders and wards to better understand the dynamics that exist in their development areas and enable them to meet the needs and priorities of communities and improve their quality of life by developing clear visionary strategies.
iii. Project execution had significant level of community participation in decision-making, community resource mobilization and project ownership hence reducing

community resistance in participation in project activities. This aspect contributes to project efficiency, effectiveness and the rate of project completion beyond County Government officials' withdrawal. During project implementation phase, County officials fear that citizens may express disinterest because cynical public officials simply go through the motions of including them with no real commitment to change.

iv. Findings also indicate the highest proportion of stakeholders being excluded in M&E plans, lack of a coherent monitoring and evaluation framework, low involvement in projects needs assessment and inadequacy of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanism which should be completed during the planning stage of a project/programme (before implementation).

5.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made from the study:

i) The community through organizations, institutions and management such as youth groups, civil societies, women groups, PLWDs involved in project initiation and implementation from the grassroots level need to be empowered in terms of information, skills and resources (human and capital) for smooth running of activities to enhance ownership and sustainability of projects.

ii) Improve on low level of community involvement in planning with County Government officials in development projects especially setting community goals and formulation of project objectives. This requires Integrated Development Planning (IDP) between County Government and ward committees to allow for co-ordination between different stakeholders and wards to better understand the dynamics that exist in their development areas and enable them to meet the needs and priorities of communities and improve their quality of life by developing clear visionary strategies to seek long-term and sustainable competitive advantage in delivering efficient and effective projects

iii) County Government officials should involve the community in all the phases of project development and management. This includes project initiation, planning,

execution and project disclosure. This significantly influences community participation in project activities hence project efficiency and effectiveness, higher number of successful projects, project completion rate and sustainability.

iv) County Governments should plan timely and reliable M&E system that provides information to support project/programme implementation, uphold accountability and compliance, contribute to public learning and knowledge sharing and provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback

5.5 Areas for Further Studies

i. The role of County development programmes on youth empowerment
ii. Factors influencing the use of Integrated Development Planning (IDP) within devolved County Government projects
iii. Factors influencing adoption of M&E system in County Government development projects.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Transmittal Letter

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: COLLLECTION OF DATA

I am a post graduate student at the University of Nairobi pursuing a Master of Arts degree in project management. In partial fulfillment of the course, I am conducting a research on ***Factors Influencing Community Participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County***. You have been selected to assist with information for this study.

The purpose of this letter is to kindly request you to assist the researcher with the requisite information by completing all parts of the attached questionnaire. The information you provide will be strictly for the research and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Josyline N. Situma

University of Nairobi

Appendix II: Questionnaire

This questionnaire is intended to help in data collection on a master's degree program research entitled; "*Factors Influencing Community Participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County, Kenya.* Please note that you have been identified as a potential respondent and therefore information you will provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Give your response by ticking where appropriate [√].

SECTION A: Background Information

1. Name of Ward ……...…

2. What is your gender? Male [ ] Female [ ]

3. Give your Designation……..

4. Please indicate your age bracket

< 30years [ ] 31-40 years [ ] 41-50 years [ ] Over 50 years [ ]

5. Please indicate the highest level of your academic qualification.

Secondary [ ] Diploma [ ] Degree [ ] Master's Degree [ ] Doctorate [ ]

Other (s)……

6. Indicate your occupation

Farmer [ ] Entrepreneur [ ] Professional Career [ ] Artisan [ ] Other [……]

SECTION B: Training and community participation in County Development Projects

Please tick what category is applicable to your situation with regard to training and community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County

No	Training and Community Participation in County development projects	SA	A	UD	D
7.	Communication with stakeholders influence community participation				

8.	Information sharing from the county government to the community and consultation forums influence active participation of community in development projects				
9.	What is the level of proposed project's planning phase, public involvement in setting goals and priorities through consultations with the government officials (COMMUNITY SHARING)				
10.	County Government provides adequate capacity building to community stakeholders in development of projects				
11.	County Government provides adequate project management skills in terms of financial management				

SECTION C: Project planning and community participation in County Development Projects

Please tick what the category applicable to your situation with regard to the level project planning and initiation and its influence on community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County

No	**Project planning and Community Participation in County Development Projects**	**SA**	**A**	**UD**	**D**	**SD**
12.	What is your level of decision input with regard to project identification during planning of County Development Projects (COMMUNITY INPUT)					
13.	What is the level of awareness in the implementation of development projects in your area					
14.	What is the level of proposed project's planning phase, public involvement in setting goals and priorities through consultations with the government officials (COMMUNITY SHARING)					
15.	What is the level of community participation and the opportunity fo submitting ideas and proposals for the planning work					
16.	Prior to community participation County Government apply both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods such as public exhibition, workshops and census survey (submitting proposals, ideas, comments and/or objections). (INFORMATION)					
17.	Throughout the project planning process, the government officials operates at an in-depth level with the community in formulating and preparing SMART objects of development projects (CONSULTATION)					

18.	What is the level of adoption of project proposal, publication of the final plan and administration of the ideal proposed project					
19	Community participates in a partnership process. Decision-making is joined between the County Officials and the public. (PARTNERSHIP)					

SECTION D: Project Execution and community participation in County Development Projects

Please tick what the category applicable to your situation with regard to the level project execution and its influence on community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County

No	**Project Execution and Community Participation in County Development Projects**	**SA**	**A**	**UD**	**D**	**SD**
20.	There is community involvement during project implementation in County Government projects					
21.	Community resource mobilization influence community participation in County development projects					
22.	community acceptance and project ownership promote project support by all stakeholders involved in the project					

SECTION E: Project Monitoring and Evaluation and community participation in County Development Projects

Please tick what the category applicable to your situation with regard to the level project Monitoring and Evaluation and its influence on community participation in County Development Projects in Bungoma South Sub-County

No	**Project M&E and Community Participation in County Development Projects**	**SA**	**A**	**UD**	**D**	**SD**
23.	County Government of Bungoma South Sub-County have a well-functioning M&E system					
24.	County officials involve community in making M&E plans					
25.	Community is involved in project needs assessment with County Officials during M&E					

26	There is adequacy of reporting stakeholders' complaints and feedback mechanism					

Appendix III: Interview Schedule Guide

v. How does community training contribute to community participation in development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

vi. Does County Government of Bungoma South have adequate mechanisms of information sharing with regard development projects?

vii. How does community planning influence community participation in development of County projects Bungoma South Sub-County?

viii. How does community project execution contribute community participation in development of County projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

ix. How does community M&E contribute to community participation in development projects in Bungoma South Sub-County?

Thank you for your contribution