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**PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY BUDGETING
PROCESS IN KENYAN COUNTIES****Willis Akala Opondo**Sociology PhD Student, University of Nairobi, Kenya
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ABSTRACT

The study was aimed at investigating the People's Participation in County Budgeting process in Kenyan Counties with a special focus on Nairobi County. The research was guided by one main objective: to establish the effectiveness of the current legal framework for community participation in Kenyan county governments. The specific objectives were; to examine residents' participation in county budget forums and their committees, and to establish the influence of residents' characteristics on participation in county budget forums and committees. Mixed methods research design was used in this study. A sample of 113 participants distributed across the Langata and Westlands Sub Counties were identified through purposive sampling. The findings were primarily analyzed through STATA. Findings show that few people participate in County budgeting process. Chi square tests revealed that there were no association between age, gender, occupation, level of education and years of residence and the participation in public forums and committees. Among the researcher's recommendation however, in view of the findings is that; the County Government should come up and conduct aggressive civic education campaigns about public participation in budgeting and planning processes. This would enable the people get informed on their civic rights and duties and ensure that their priorities are addressed by the County Government.

Key words: *Community, Participation, Community Participation, Public Participation, county government, ward*

INTRODUCTION

Kenyan Government initially suggested decentralization in the Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 on "African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya". As per Chitere and Ileri (2008). The thought was to fortify the battle averse to neediness, infection and absence of education. According to Kibua and Mwabu, 2008; Chitere and Ileri (2008) The Sessional paper marks one of the key starting endeavours to decentralize improvement plan and assets to the areas and neighbourhood government specialists the nation over. In 1983, the Government presented the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) system as its official decentralization approach (Alila and Omosa, 1996; Chitere and Ileri, 2008).

According to the United Nations Centre for Regional Development- Africa office book titled "Social Development Issues in Africa" (2001: 88), participation in the development process became government policy in the 1980s. This followed disappointments that characterized the centralized rural development policies of the 1970s and 80s that failed to solve most development problems within the rural sector. To enlarge the rural development planning base and to facilitate local involvement, decentralization measures were introduced. In Kenya, this effort culminated in the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy introduced in 1983. The central objective behind this strategy was to encourage local initiative in problem identification, resource mobilization and project design and implementation (Government of Kenya 1983). Under the DFRD structure, areas turned into the arranging units for decentralized administration conveyance. Be that as it may, performance of the system was obliged by different variables including constrained association of groups in venture cycle administration (Chitere and Ileri, 2008).

One of the landmark provisions of the Constitution as set out in article 6:1—3 is the devolved system of governance which created system of governance that was two tier (national and county) where both are assigned clear mandates as detailed in the fourth programme of the constitution. Forty-seven county governments were then made. The two levels of government are unmistakable yet related and chip away at a shared ground on the premise of conference and participation. The county incomes and the conveyance of open administration in the decayed units are under the Executive and the Legislative arms of governments.

(Chitere, 2008), says that devolution refers to moving decision making and resources away from the centre to the periphery. It is the sharing of responsibilities both for decision making as well as for decentralization and use of resources between the central and sub-national governments. (Oloo, 2006) notes that Devolution in Kenya, is seen as a way to institutionalize citizen participation in development planning, opportunities for political participation and to enhance communities' sense of ownership.

Public participation is a dynamic procedure by which recipients or gatherings impact the bearing and project development with the purpose of upgrading their prosperity as far as pay, self-awareness and confidence. Members of community should claim the process of decision making and outline exercises that will in this manner empower them accomplish the desired objective.

As per Bhatnagar and Williams (1992: 177) participation is a procedure by which individuals, particularly impeded individuals, impact choices that influence them... "Participation implies effect on development choices, not just inclusion in usage or (in sharing) advantages of an advancement action, despite the fact that those sorts of associations are vital and are regularly energized by open doors for impact".

The Kenyan Constitution makes national investment a focal piece of Kenya's administration framework. Investment of the general population is really perceived in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) as one of our national esteems and standards of administration. Additionally, as per article 174(c) devolution purpose is to: "upgrade individual support in the forces of the State activities and in settling on choices influencing them." It is required that systems for investment by occupants be incorporated into the national enactment identifying with urban zones and governance of cities and administration according to article 184 (1) (c).

The budget is the principle instrument the government uses to choose how to collect and burn through cash in a given year. Under the Kenyan constitution, subjects have a privilege to request that legislature burn through cash on specific things, to know whether the administration is truly spending that cash and to be given data about how the cash is being shared.

The County Governments Act, 2012 (CGA), 104 commits an area to build up an incorporated arrangement, assign arranging units at all district regulatory levels and advance open investment and engagement by non-state performing artists in the arranging procedure. The county designs comprise of among others, the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) which is a 5 year arrange for that advises the province's yearly spending plan. The CIDP mirrors the key midterm needs of the area governments. The CIDP contains particular objectives and destinations, execution design, arrangements for checking and assessment and clear revealing instruments. It contains data on ventures, advancement activities, maps, measurements, and framework for resource mobilization. The CIDP and Budgets should involve exchanges of ideas among county administration, individuals, NGOs and other non-state actors. It is generally agreed that both the county governments and the citizens have responsibilities to ensure effective participation works.

The Nairobi county government is one of the counties that has successfully passed a legislation in relation to public participation (the Nairobi City County Public Participation Act, 2015. No 11 of 2015). This has given the county government a big step in its efforts to encourage public participation.

An annual budget provides the mandate for public funds spending; therefore, community members' involvement in the budgetary process is a necessity. This is done so as to ensure control and accountability at various operations levels (Shende & Bennett, 2004) The Counties are mandated to facilitate community participation with their respective residents.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of People's Participation

"Needy individuals are infrequently met. When they are met, they regularly don't talk. When they do talk, they are frequently careful and respectful, and what they say is regularly either not tuned in, or ignored, or translated in a terrible light," (Chambers 1983: 104).

Individuals' participation activities have turned into a basic for ventures development, which are financed by the World Bank and the distinctive worldwide guide associations (Momen and Begum 2005). By far most of the change associations assume that poverty fight can't be won in absence of extraordinary neighbourhood administration in creating countries (DFID 2007; Shah 2006; World Bank 2002).

Individuals' participation is firmly connected to the ideas of practical advancement and majority rule administration. The idea of good administration conveys in it the quintessence of vote based system through the component of systematized native support (Coulibaly, 2004). By and by, native cooperation is for the most part communicated through data, mindfulness raising, meeting, addressing and exchange.

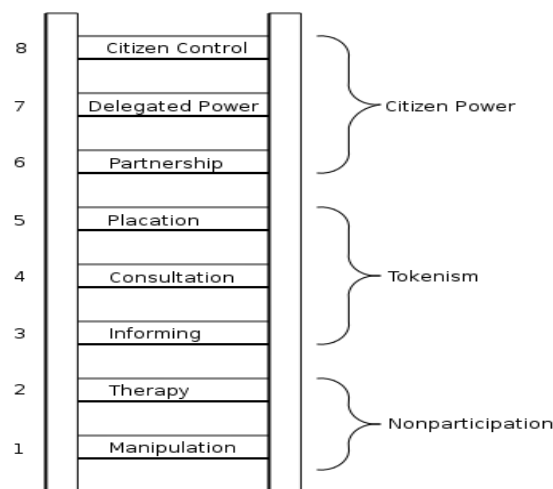
In the case of decreasing extraordinary destitution, accomplishing dietary independence, disposing of gender imbalance, engaging ladies or enhancing wellbeing, it is hard to visualize enduring arrangements if the nationals straightforwardly influenced don't really partake all the while. Participation of citizens is in this way a squeezing necessity, empowering provinces to decide for and independent from anyone else approaches to beat their greatest difficulties.

Davis (1996:2 referred to in Buchy, Ross et al (2000)) added to this discourse referring to that the intrigue and utilization of the idea has become because of a blend of conditions: expanded access to data; a nosier media; estrangement from conventional structures; challenge developments; and another modernity among intrigue and entryway gatherings. In the writing, the ordinarily referred to explanations behind cooperation's prevalence are; fizzled advancement ventures, abused assets and disappointed groups (Buchy, Ross et al. 2000; Chambers 1997). In Kenya, much the same as in numerous nations, participatory development started with and was for quite a while bound to group project development (Wakwabubi and Shiverenje, 2003). To broaden the base of rural development planning and to facilitate local involvement, decentralization measures were introduced. In Kenya, this led to the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) strategy introduced in 1983. The central objective behind this strategy was to encourage local initiative in problem identification, resource mobilization and project design and implementation.

A point of interest in the advancement of participatory improvement and law in Kenya was the institution of the Physical Planning Act in 1996. The statute provides for group investment in the planning and usage of physical and advancement designs. Be that as it may, its real deficit was the absence of the basic component of group sharpening on their parts (Okello 2008). The constitution has quickened the scan for fitting systems to build the support of the general population in all circles of Government, especially the province government circle.

Arnstein’s ladder of citizen participation

The work by Arnstein (1969) on community participation has been the basis which many community development workers and scholars have viewed public participation. The specific significance of Arnstein's work comes from the express acknowledgment that there are distinctive levels of interest, from control or treatment of nationals, through to conference, and to what we may now see as certifiable cooperation, i.e. the levels of partnership and control of citizen.



Source: Arnstein, 1969

Figure 1: Arnstein’s ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969)

The utilization of a ladder suggests that more control is constantly superior to anything less control. Be that as it may, expanded control may not generally be wanted by the group and expanded control without the essential help may bring about disappointment.

A ladder of citizen empowerment

This is a kind of improvement of Arnstein’s ladder of participation. There has been a new paradigm towards understanding participation as far as the strengthening of people and groups. This has originated from the developing conspicuousness of the possibility of the native as shopper, where decision among options is viewed as a method for access to control. Under this model, individuals are required to be in charge of themselves and should, along these lines, be dynamic in broad daylight benefit basic leadership. In this specific circumstance, Burns et al (1994) adjusted Arnstein's stepping stool of cooperation and proposed a step of resident power (figure 2)

This is more intricate than Arnstein's step as there is more subjective breakdown of a portion of the distinctive levels. A case is given between how a refinement has been drawn amongst negative and veritable discussion, and amongst depended and autonomous national control. The marvels of 'city build-up', progressively perceived amid the 1990s is fused at the base rung of the step. This basically regards group support as an advertising exercise, in which the coveted final product is 'sold' to the group.

| |
|--|
| CITIZEN CONTROL |
| 12. Independent control |
| 11. Entrusted control |
| CITIZEN PARTICIPATION |
| 10. Delegated control |
| 9. Partnership |
| 8. Limited decentralized decision-making |
| 7. Effective advisory boards |
| 6. Genuine consultation |
| 5. High quality information |
| CITIZEN NON-PARTICIPATION |
| 4. Customer care |
| 3. Poor information |
| 2. Cynical consultation |
| 1. Civic hype |

Source: Burns, 1994

Figure 2: A ladder of citizen empowerment (Burns et al, 1994)

People Participation and the Budget process

“Regularly for poor people, gaps are focal. The resources and advancements which are principle line worries of set up controls, experts and divisions are normally connected to and taken up by business interests and by the individuals who are in an ideal situation. Needs are set by regular particular investigation and affected by political powers which generally support the strong,” (John M Riley 2003: 184-185).

It is vital that citizens especially those who pay the government taxes for good service delivery should be involved in public participation because the law requires them to. This not only makes them consumers of government services but also the financiers. In administrative decision making, citizen participation is about an inclusive setting of goals, determining policies and strategies and monitoring of government services. The activities that are entailed in public support identify with the procedures and components used to touch base at these and incorporate, yet not restricted to, open sittings and hearings, subjects' counselling boards and boards, neighbourhood or occupant gatherings and open overviews. The most practicable and useful regions of subject inclusion incorporate monetary advancement, ecological security, training, general wellbeing, open security and policing amongst others (Yang and Callahan, 2005).

According to Alila (1996), supporters of a devolved system of governance both from the economic and political fields attribute increased transfer of power from the central government towards the lower sub-national tiers of government. Further, devolution has been known to enhance transparency and accountability thus increasing the motivation behind the predisposition towards a devolved system of governance in numerous developing countries which involve engaging those groups and individuals who are supposed to benefit from such public services.

As outlined in Schedule Four of the Kenyan Constitution The transfer of service delivery and financial resources and to local governments in essential departments like agriculture, water, health, and agriculture, among other sectors, allows the county governments an opportunity to enhance public services delivery at the county level. This is made possible by devolution which improves the effectiveness of asset portion as it is normal and additionally expected that nearby pioneers in the counties, including the two government officials and the administrators, have better comprehension of neighbourhood difficulties, needs and inclinations, and can accordingly better recognize the requirements of local communities and give open merchandise and ventures in a more financially ways.

Public participation is a methodology that can be used to prevent corruption and incompetent leadership that has plagued modern societies particularly in the global south. The reason is that participatory development and public participation is the key pillar of democracy. As championed by supporters of democracy, meaningful citizen participations tie government projects to the people (Kelly and Riverbank, 2003).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The interplay between theory and research. Participation theoretical perspectives represent a move from the top-down strategies that dominated early development initiatives to more locally sensitive methodologies. The value of participatory development grew out from the evidence that the poor have suffered in most circumstances as a result of poor development plans. Through this perspective, everyone needs to be involved in development plans, implementation and intended benefits. This study adopted Arnstein's participatory theory, and the rational choice theory.

Participatory Theoretical Perspective

The study was based on Arnstein's (1969) work on community participation. Arnstein proposed a ladder of participation. He states that participation in community activities is impacted by various elements like the focal point of energy, Issues of process and limit, aggregate initiative and demeanour that the members have towards the task. Arnstein states that specifically, there has been a move towards understanding cooperation as far as the strengthening of people and groups. This has originated from the developing noticeable quality of the possibility of the resident as customer, where decision among choices is viewed as a method for access to control. Under

this model, individuals are relied upon to be in charge of themselves and should, along these lines, be dynamic in decision making.

This theory was used in this study to explain the role and effective ways of engaging the public in participation in governance issues in local or national Governments to ensure effective, efficient and sustained delivery of public goods and services.

Rational Choice Theoretical Perspective

Rational decision hypothesis has assumed an essential part in the investigation of political cooperation. The rational decision display is outlined compactly in the accompanying terms: "An objective man is one who acts as follows: he can simply settle on a choice when gone up against with a scope of options; he positions every one of the choices confronting him arranged by his inclinations such that each is either wanted to, apathetic regarding, or sub-par compared to each other; his inclination positioning is transitive; he generally browses among the conceivable choices that which positions most noteworthy in his inclination requesting; and he generally settles on a similar choice each time he is stood up to with similar options (Downs, 1957).

This theory was applicable to this study in that, it explored the various ways on how the citizens and the public could improve their decision making skills to effectively and efficiently figure out proper decisions, plans and actions that can be taken during the public participation forums.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted using descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey research sought to obtain information that describes the existing phenomena by asking individuals, county officials about their knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, behaviour or values (Kothari, 1985). Descriptive survey suited this study because the population in question was a little bit large and it was difficult to observe the characteristics of every individual. It also helped in collecting data on the people's participation in the planning and budgeting on county projects. This design helped in assessing the level of effectiveness of the legal frameworks in people's participation in the budget process in Nairobi County and answering the following research questions*****

Nairobi County has 17 sub-counties and 85 wards. From this population, the researcher purposefully selected 2 sub counties namely: Westlands and Langata. This was mainly because the sub counties had experienced different health, education, road and water development projects initiated by the Nairobi County Government within the last 3 years. Westlands and Langata sub counties have 10 Wards between them. The wards include: Karen, Mugumu ini, Nairobi West, Nyayo highrise and South C in Langata Sub-County and Kangemi, Karura, Kitisuru, Mountain View and Parklands in Westlands Sub County. Kasarani sub county was used for piloting the instruments.

Through maximum variation sampling which is a type of purposive sampling, the researcher identified a total of 113 participants drawn from all the Wards in the 2 Sub-Counties. The researcher felt that this number was a good representative and sufficient to make generalisations on the topic under study. Those identified showed great interest to participate in the study. The response rate was 100%. In addition, 4 key informants were purposively selected and interviewed. The interviews were audio-taped and permission for this was obtained. These recordings were transcribed verbatim and the texts were analysed.

Table 1: Sample distribution

| Langata Sub County | | | Westlands Sub County | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | No of Participants | No of KIs | | No of Participants | No of KIs |
| Karen | 8 | | Kangemi | 9 | 1 |
| Mugumu ini | 11 | | Karura | 13 | |
| Nairobi west | 11 | 1 | Kitisuru | 16 | |
| Nyayo highrise | 12 | | Mountain view | 19 | 1 |
| South C | 11 | 1 | Parklands | 3 | |
| Total | 53 | 2 | Total | 60 | 2 |
| Total Population: 117 | | | | | |

The researcher conducted semi-structured interviews. This type of interview offers a flexible way of collecting the data, and is very helpful in giving clarity to concepts and problems (Welman et al 2007:166). The fundamental aspect of this method is that the respondents are individuals who are members of the community and are directly or indirectly involved in the public participation processes. The questionnaire was used because it is easy to administer and it can be used to collect data simultaneously from a large group of respondents.

In conducting effective KIs interviews, this study utilised the qualitative interview as described by Rubin and Rubin (1995:31). Their model of qualitative interviewing emphasises the relativism of culture, the active participation of the interviewer, and the importance of giving the interviewee a voice. It was anticipated that individual perception would be used. It focused on people participation in planning and budgeting.

From the data collected from pilot testing, test-retest method was used to test for reliability. From the resulting results, the instrument was found to give consistent results.

FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter deals with the analysis of data collected from the field, presentation and its interpretation. Analysis of data was done using SPSS software; presentation is done using graphs and tables while interpretations are generated from analysis of the data presented.

The data analysis in this study was clustered on five thematic based on the conceptual framework of the study. Further, the chapter highlights the summary of the statistics obtained from the study. It contains the following themes; personal characteristics, level of awareness, participation in county planning and budgeting, respondent's perception of county projects and lastly the perceived/actual benefits of the county projects.

Personal Characteristics

Distribution by Gender

The total number of participants in the study were 113. We had 44% of the respondents who were females and 56% who were male.

This is illustrated in figure 3 below.

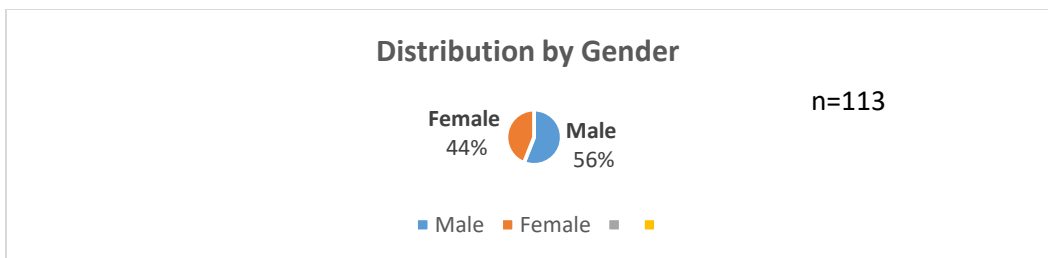


Figure 3: Distribution of the respondents by Gender

Distribution of the respondents by Age

This was asked so that the researcher could find out the most active as well as the least active age group as far as participation in the public county planning and budgeting forums was concerned. And further to link the level of awareness to the different set of age groups.

“Most participants are normally above 30 years. Youths are very rare to be seen in this forums. Though we try the boda boda riders to normally have their representative here in Kangemi when we have the forums.” (KI-4)
 This finding confirms KI-4 assertions that most participants in the public forums are usually those with ages above 30.

We found the age brackets of 50% of the participants to be 30-39, 34% were aged below 29, 11% were aged 40-49 and 5% were aged above 50 years. Figure 4 below shows the distribution of the ages.

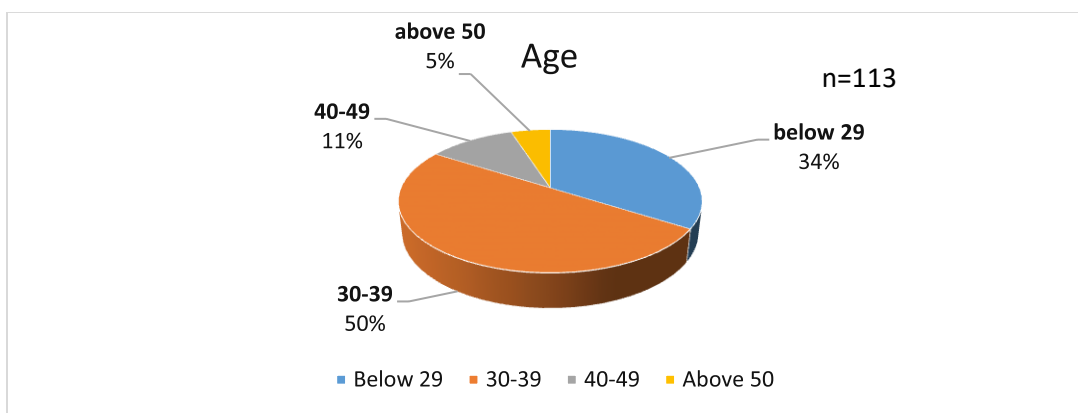


Figure 4: Distribution of the respondents by Age

Distribution of the respondents by the level of Education

Most of the respondents had secondary education as the highest completed level at 44%, 27% had Certificate/Diploma, 14% had primary education, 13% had University Degrees and 2% had no formal education. Since most of the respondents 84% had secondary education and above, it implied that the participants were well informed and could make rational and independent decisions in regards to the survey questions and the interests of the study.

Of interest to the researcher was how the level of education completed influenced the level of awareness as well as participation in the county planning and budgeting issues.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents by the level of Education

| Level of Education | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| No formal Education | 2 | 2 |
| Primary education | 16 | 14 |
| Secondary education | 49 | 44 |
| Certificate/Diploma College | 31 | 27 |
| University/College | 15 | 13 |
| Total | 113 | 100 |

Distribution of the respondents by Occupation

We asked the respondents their occupations, 86% of the respondents were business people who were self-employed, 14% were in formal employment and 2% were unemployed.

The researcher wanted to understand from the data gathered from this question whether a person's occupation had an impact on the level of awareness of county legal framework, governance and participation in county planning and budgeting.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents by Occupation

| Occupation | Number | Percent |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Employed | 14 | 12 |
| Self Employed | 97 | 86 |
| Unemployed | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 113 | 100 |

Distribution of the respondents by reasons for settling in their current ward

The researcher asked the respondents to give reasons on why they decided to settle in their current estates and wards. The reasons given by residents on why they settled in their current ward and estates were; 47% said it was affordable, 30% said it was because of friends/relatives, 11% said they were born here while 12% said they had other reasons for settling in their current location. This is illustrated in figure 5 below.

Majority of the county residents were of the opinion that affordability was the main factor that influenced where one could settle within the city.

The various responses received from the participants indicated that most of the participants were aware of their surrounding hence appropriate study subjects.

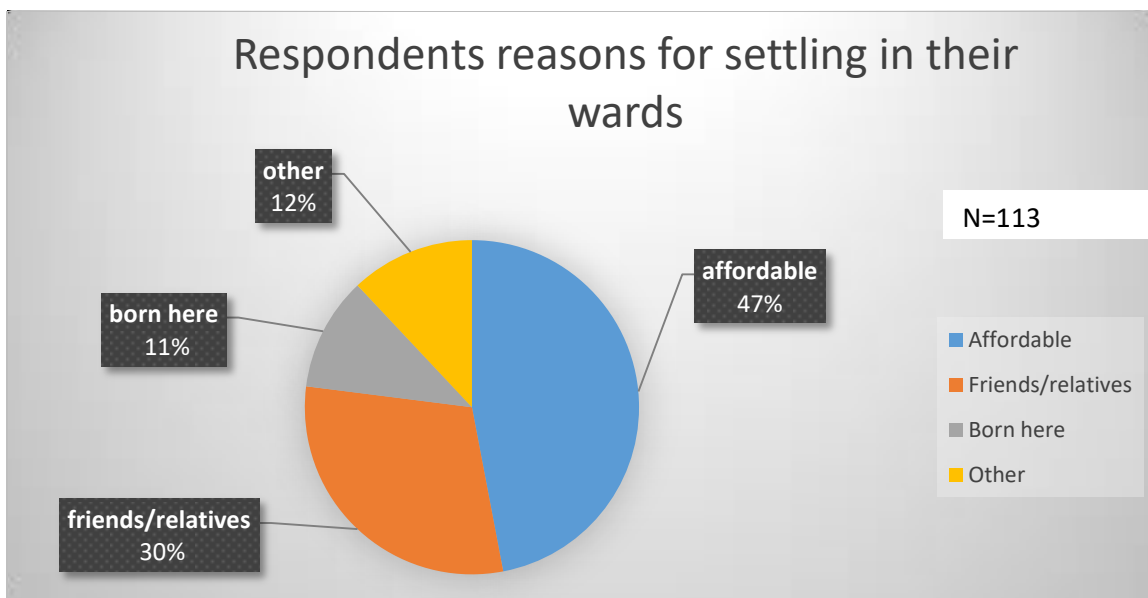


Figure 5: Respondents reasons for settling in their wards

For the 14 respondents who had said that they had other reasons on why they settled here, 57% of the respondents said it was business, 29% said it was because of work/job, 7% said it was because of cheap fare and another 7% said it was because it was safe. Table 4 below further illustrates the reasons.

Table 4: Reasons provided by the respondents for residing in their wards.

| Reason | Number | Percent |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Business | 8 | 57 |
| Job/Work | 4 | 29 |
| Fare | 1 | 7 |
| Safe | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 14 | 100 |

Distribution of the respondents by home/land ownership in rural areas

The researcher asked the respondents whether they owned a home or land in their rural areas. The researcher found out that 67% of the respondents had a land/home in their rural areas while 33% of the respondents did not have one. This is illustrated in table 5 below.

Of key interest was whether home/land ownership could have some impact to active participation in planning and budgeting for county funded projects in the wards.

Table 5: Home/Land Ownership Distribution

| Home/Land Ownership | Number | Percent |
|---------------------|--------|---------|
| Has land/home | 76 | 67 |
| Has no land/home | 37 | 33 |
| Total | 113 | 100 |

Relationship between the respondents' characteristics and their participation in public forums and committees

The key indicators were on: age, gender, education level, occupation and the years of residence.

Distribution by Age on Participation in County Planning and Budgeting

The study used Chi square test to test if there existed any relationship between age and participation in county planning and budgeting. The research conducted the test using collected data particularly on the participation in county planning and budgeting. After being scored on three key indicators on the level of participation, the participants were classified into having low and high participation levels on county planning and budgeting. The following were the results of the test.

Table 6: Distribution by Age on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

| | | Participation | | Total |
|-----|-------------|---------------|------|-------|
| | | Low | High | |
| Age | Below 29yrs | 35 | 3 | 38 |
| | 30-39 | 50 | 6 | 56 |
| | 40-49 | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| | Above 50 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 10 | 113 |

$$X^2 = 0.968, \quad df= 3, \quad p > 0.05$$

Since the X^2 value of 0.968 was not significant at 0.1, we conclude that there is not enough evidence to suggest an association between age and participation in public forums and Committees.

Based on the results, majority of the participants above 40 years and below 29 were not actively involved in participation in county planning and budgeting. The researcher felt that there should be some association between age and participation based on information and views of some of the participants who took part in the study though it did not prove otherwise in this case. This can be attributed to the number of participants who participated in this study.

Distribution by Gender on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

The study used Chi square test to test if there existed any relationship between gender and participation in county planning and budgeting. The research conducted the test using collected data particularly on the participation in county planning and budgeting. After being scored on three key indicators on the level of participation, the participants were classified into having low and high participation levels on county planning and budgeting.

The following were the results of the test.

Table 7: Distribution by Gender on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

| | | Participation | | Total |
|--------|--------|---------------|------|-------|
| | | Low | High | |
| Gender | Male | 59 | 4 | 63 |
| | Female | 44 | 6 | 50 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 10 | 113 |

$X^2 = 1.104, \quad df= 1, \quad p > 0.05$

Since the X^2 value of 1.104 was not significant at 0.1, we conclude that there is not enough evidence to suggest an association between gender and participation in public forums and Committees.

According to table 7 above, both gender participated in almost an equal measure. Some participants had observed that females were not usually actively involved in governance issues as some felt that their views could as well be given out by their spouses and those that are interested in governance matters.

Based on the results therefore, the researcher was of the opinion that measures taken by NGOs and CBOs to improve gender awareness and participation in governance issues especially in the counties is bearing fruits.

Distribution by Education Level on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

The study used Chi square test to test if there existed any relationship between education level and participation in county planning and budgeting. The research conducted the test using collected data particularly on the participation in county planning and budgeting. After being scored on three key indicators on the level of participation, the participants were classified into having low and high participation levels on county planning and budgeting.

The following were the results of the test.

Table 8: Distribution by Education Level on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

| | | Participation | | Total |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|------|-------|
| | | Low | High | |
| Education Level | No formal education | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Primary | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| | Secondary | 45 | 4 | 49 |
| | Certificate/Diploma | 27 | 4 | 31 |
| | Degree/college | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 10 | 113 |

$X^2 = 1.077, \quad df= 4, \quad p > 0.05$

Since the X^2 value of 1.077 was not significant at 0.1, we conclude that there is not enough evidence to suggest an association between education level and participation in public forums and Committees.

According to table 8 above, we can state that education plays a critical role in participation in county planning and budgeting. We realised that all levels of education were represented in the high participation category. The researcher however felt that education level could have influence on participation in planning and budgeting when the sample size and target population is increased.

Distribution by Occupation on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

The study used Chi square test to test if there existed any relationship between occupation and participation in county planning and budgeting. The research conducted the test using collected data particularly on the participation in county planning and budgeting. After being scored on three key indicators on the level of participation, the participants were classified into having low and high participation levels on county planning and budgeting.

The following were the results of the test.

Table 9: Distribution by Occupation on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

| | | Participation | | Total |
|------------|---------------|---------------|------|-------|
| | | Low | High | |
| Occupation | Employed | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| | Self Employed | 88 | 9 | 97 |
| | Un employed | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 10 | 113 |

$X^2 = 0.267, \quad df= 2, \quad p > 0.05$

Since the X^2 value of 0.267 was not significant at 0.1, we conclude that there is not enough evidence to suggest an association between occupation and participation in public forums and Committees.

Majority of the high participants were the self-employed, this was a confirmation as majority of the participants in the study were self-employed. The researcher felt that their might have been different results had the population of the participants been more balanced in terms of occupation.

Distribution by Years of Residence on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

The study used Chi square test to test if there existed any relationship between years of residence and participation in county planning and budgeting. The research conducted the test using collected data particularly on the participation in county planning and budgeting. After being scored on three key indicators on the level of participation, the participants were classified into having low and high participation levels on county planning and budgeting.

The following were the results of the test.

Table 10: Distribution by Years of Residence on Participation in Public Forums and Committees

| | | Participation | | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------|-------|
| | | Low | High | |
| Years of Residence | Below 2 years | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| | 3-5 years | 29 | 2 | 31 |
| | 6 years and above | 58 | 6 | 64 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 10 | 113 |

$X^2 = 0.357, \quad df= 2, \quad p > 0.05$

Since the X^2 value of 0.357 was not significant at 0.1, we conclude that there is not enough evidence to suggest an association between years of residence and participation in public forums and Committees.

In table 10 above, we note that participants who had stayed in their wards and estates for more than 6 years were highly likely to participate in county participation platforms. Though all residency periods were well represented in the high participation category, the researcher felt that those that had stayed in the estate and ward for many years were likely to participate in county planning and budgeting. This the researcher attributes to participants having high interest in what the County Government plans in their wards and estates to make their lives better.

CONCLUSION

Of those who have attended the forum; 73% were males signalling that very few girls are engaged in civic processes, 53% were those with secondary education, 73% were self-employed while 54% of those who attended were found to have stayed in their sub counties for more than 6 years.

Chi square tests revealed that there were no association between age, gender, occupation, level of education and years of residence and the participation in public forums and committees.

The researchers found out that few residents of Nairobi County participate in public forums called by the County Government. Mostly affected are youths below 29 years old and senior citizens above 50 years old. Only 37% of Nairobi residents were aware of public forums to discuss planning and budgeting issues. It is either the County Government has weak legislation or their official are not putting enough effort to ensure residents come out in large numbers to discuss planning and budgeting issues.

Not only being aware of legislation on public participation is enough, close to half of the respondents who had idea on the same did not know how citizens can participate. As 99% knew their governor, 45% did not know the name of their MCA. The disinterest in knowing MCAs is linked to poor public participation in the Sub-counties and Wards as residents do not care who participates or not and whether issues affecting their wards are addressed or not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study has revealed that:

1. There is need for the County Governments to come up with aggressive civic education campaigns. This is because as noted, a big chunk of the respondents was ignorant of the fact that public participation is their constitutional right. The effort should not only be to make the public aware of the public forums but also to make the public knowledgeable on the importance of attending such forums.
2. There is need for administrators to play a big role in the sensitization and creation of awareness to the youth and older citizens who do not seem to take interest in participating in public planning and budgeting forums.
3. Facilitators should provide materials in a language that most residence understand.
4. The County Governments should consider facilitating those who attend public participation forums by either refunding participants' fare or providing them with lunch during the forum sessions. This can increase attendance.
5. It is also important that prior to the public participation, the relevant documents are availed to the public so that they know what will be discussed during the forums.

6. The views and concerns raised by participants during public participation forums should be taken into account during project identification, implementation and evaluation. This will ensure that only the priority projects identified by the locals are implemented.

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