

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN  
WOTE/NZIU WARD OF MAKUENI COUNTY, KENYA**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of  
Master of Arts in Sociology of South Eastern Kenya University**

**2022**

**DECLARATION**

I understand that plagiarism is an offence and I therefore declare that this Thesis is my original work and it has not been presented to any other institution for any other award.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to Almighty God for creating me and enabling me to pursue my career to this level. I also specially dedicate this work to my husband Isaac Ikwava Liku for the support and encouragement he offered to me to pursue higher education and not forgetting our two daughters Abigail Mutanu and Gabriella Mueni. To my parents Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Wambua, I cannot thank you enough for your moral support.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to register my heartfelt gratitude to my two supervisors; Prof. Harrison Maithya and Prof. Jonathan Mwanja for their tireless work and guidance all through the development of this thesis. My appreciation also goes to Justin Musyoka Kivungi the Chief Officer for Devolution, County Administration Public Service and Youth, Makueni County for being resourceful during my research. I cannot forget to thank all my research respondents for taking their time and providing useful information without which this study may not have been a success. I thank God for them.

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## **ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS**

<b>CG</b>	:	County Government
<b>CIDP</b>	:	County Integrated Development Plan
<b>CSOs</b>	:	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DDC</b>	:	District Development Committee
<b>EMCA</b>	:	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
<b>NGOs</b>	:	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PDC</b>	:	Project Development Committee
<b>PMC</b>	:	Project Management Committee
<b>PWD</b>	:	People with Disabilities
<b>SDGs</b>	:	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEKU</b>	:	South Eastern Kenya University
<b>UK</b>	:	United Kingdom
<b>UN</b>	:	United Nations
<b>UNECE</b>	:	United Nation Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNDP</b>	:	United Nations Development Program
<b>USA</b>	:	United States of America

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

<b>Accountability:</b>	This means being answerable to the people; Systems which allow the free flow of information whereby the administration is answerable to the people.
<b>Development Projects:</b>	Series of activities that address a particular need of the community through service delivery.
<b>Political Power:</b>	The ability of private persons or associations to influence and regulate the decisions and acts of the upholders of the formal legal authority.
<b>Project Management Committee:</b>	Elected members of a particular area who represent the public in the decision-making processes of the ward.
<b>Public Participation:</b>	Deliberative process of interaction between the government or development agency and the public meant to collect views of the public in regard to projects being executed by the Government or development agency. It is a platform organized to collect views from the public on a subject at hand.
<b>Social Factors:</b>	Variables affecting people way of life and the way they interact with one another.
<b>Sustainable Development:</b>	Development that meets the needs of the existing generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their needs.

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to establish the factors influencing public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. The objectives were: To establish the effect of socio-economic factors on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County; To establish the influence of political factors on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward of Makueni County; To assess the effect of demographic characteristics of the participants on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County. The total population for the study was 14,283 respondents. Using Yamane sample calculation formula, a sample of 100 respondents was selected from different sub locations within Wote/Nziu ward. The study sample was divided into 85 general public respondents and 15 Key Informants were drawn from Makueni County officers who are directly involved in Public participation. Nine focus group discussions were conducted among the Project Management Committee members from the nine different projects within Wote/Nziu ward. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to analyze the data. Popular themes emanating from the study responses were analyzed via SPSS under the qualitative method. Data in numerical form was summarized and presented in descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentages under the quantitative method. The study found that socio-economic factors such as education and income levels, affect public participation in development projects. As such the county uses local languages to engage the illiterate at the grass roots level. Politics was found to affect public participation the most. Political alienation, party affiliation, and interference by politicians negatively affected public participation. The study further found that demographic background such as gender, age, disability, and birth background affected public participation the least. The county involved everyone and, as a result, fostered unity and maximized on citizens involvement in development projects. The study therefore concludes that party politics and involvement of politicians is an impediment to public participation in development projects. Socio-economic factors such as illiteracy negatively affects public participation in areas where vernacular languages cannot be used in a public forum. The Makueni County Government does not discriminate people based on their demographic background in public forums. The study recommends that the County governance of Makueni County should put more emphasis on civic education and effective public participation training at the grass root level to strengthen good communication, public engagement and enhance sufficient systematic gathering of information and analysis of community needs in order to effect development agenda. The study concluded that County leaders should emphasize on good governance through transparency and accountability in their systems to build public trust and confidence through restructured strategy to adequately and efficiently address community problems.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents conceptual and contextual background of the study. This helps in building up the problem necessitating the study by putting it in context. It also identifies objectives, parties to benefit from the study together with scope and assumptions.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The first attempt of public participation in Kenya was the District focus strategy in Kenya and was outlined in 1983 with the aim of broadening the base of rural development by improving on problem identification, resource mobilization and project implementation. The strategy emphasized that the district-based projects be implemented by the District Development Committee (DDC) to promote efficiency in utilization of national resources. The District Development committee was headed by the then District Commissioners in each district and was found to be very bureaucratic and this led to resistance at the grass root levels and major challenges were encountered involving negative attitudes and behavior. This paved way for the modern public participation which embraced the will of the people and bottom up approaches (Republic of Kenya, 1982).

Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, 1999 provided a framework on environmental legislation and institutional framework for the management of the environment. It constituted the foundation of national economic, social, cultural and spiritual advancement. Public participation gained recognition to promote participatory democracy to foster inclusivity of the people to give a better knowledge on the conflicts arising on matters related to environment (Soneryd, 2003).

Kenya's Constitution 2010 in Article 10 calls for a public sector commitment, efficiency, transparency and accountability to achieve socio-economic and political development as a national goal and this is not only at the national level but also in the devolved units. It calls for public participation on all subjects having an effect on the public so that the public is accorded an opportunity to contribute to projects being undertaken. The issue of

public participation has been appreciated from a global perspective. Kenyans promulgated a new Constitution in 2010, which gave emphasis on transiting from a centralized government to a devolved system of governance. Article 10 of Kenya's Constitution 2010 Constitution points out public involvement as a critical component of good governance. Public participation is also highlighted in Article 201(a) as pivotal to the success of achieving openness and financial accountability. In addition, according to County Governments Act (section 30 and section 32), County Governments have a responsibility to promote and facilitate the participation of citizens in service delivery, policy development and planning. It has been argued that public participation has many benefits (Nabatchi, 2018). Public participation mainly aims to encourage meaningful public input in policy and making decisions. As such, Public participation promotes communication between the public and decision-making agencies. This relationship can serve as a means to provide early warning in matters that concern the public, a means for timely and accurate dissemination of information and making of sustainable decisions (Aichholzer, 2018). Benefits accrue because provided public participation as a process is mutually beneficial —where the benefits and learning reach the public and the decision-making agencies (Shields, 2018)). Sound public participation ensures public values are identified in regard to any development process. Public participation entails openness, accountability and a structured process which allows citizens, people, or community segments to interact, exchange opinions and affect the making of decisions. Various chapters or articles of the Constitution require the undertaking of public participation at all governmental levels before official decisions are made (Muriu, 2013).

In reference to the Cities and Urban Areas Act 2011 (Amended 2019), residents of urban areas, have participation rights in urban or city affairs - right to take part in the decision-making process of urban area/city by submission of oral or written claims or complaints to town boards or committee through the city mayor or municipal manager (Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011). Residents from respective wards must fully and actively participate in the integrated process of development planning in project initiation and implementation. Participatory planning in development aims to address poor historical

planning and sustainably develop rural areas. Each county government is therefore required to foster effective and adequate grass-root level participation of local residents. The Kenya Vision 2030, which has been conceptualized from the SDGs, is among the major strategic development decisions in Kenya. The Vision sets a clear road map for the strategic development policies and decisions for the Kenyan government at national and devolved levels (Republic of Kenya, 2013). The Vision also provides a firm foundation on which to boost the development of economic competitiveness and of a society based on knowledge (Republic of Kenya, 2008). They provide information that directs decision making processes to ensure that resources are utilized in programs promoting attainment of the SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2015 to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders by the year 2030. The SDGs fully embraces public participation as it lays strong emphasis creativity, technology and financial resources from all societies to achieve its targets. The Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is geared towards empowering men, women and young people to effectively take control of their personal development and its implementation on a global scale (UN, 2015). According to United Nations, achieving the SDGs requires partnerships between the government, civil society and the citizens.

The big four agenda clearly outline its mandate that anchored on Food Security, Affordable Housing, Universal Health Care and Manufacturing. The success of the big four agenda recognizes the Kenyan citizens as the key assets for attainment of its goals. The agenda creates an opportunity for the Kenyan citizens to be engaged in development activities in their respective counties. Makueni County is believed to have championed public participation in Kenya and other counties have started adopting the Makueni County public participation model (Omolo, 2018).

Makueni County Public Participation Policy derives its concept from the Kenyan Public Participation Policy that was developed through the department of Justice in 2014. The Makueni County Public Participation Policy has established appropriate mechanisms and



procedures to enable the local community to participate in the affairs of the County through development Committee, Project Management Committee, Public Participation forums, Civic Education and other bottom up development processes (Makueni Public Participation Policy, 2020).

Effective community participation in project implementation improves project sustainability with the usage of local knowledge, increases the acceptability of the project, produces higher equitability in benefit distribution, promotes mobilization of local resources, and helps to ensure the project is sustainable. However, public participation can at times be costly due to delayed decision-making hence delaying the project start up. Due to the inclusion of inexperienced groups and individuals, participatory approaches can be less advantageous compared to technical/bureaucratic management because project sustainability may be affected by the eruption of conflicts, or lost efficiency (Bamberger, 2016).

Public participation provides a platform whereby the citizens can affect decision-making in governance processes at the grass root level. The process entails giving and taking because the opportunities are provided for by the government and it is up to citizens to utilize them. In Kenya, participation of the public in governance is satisfactorily addressed in the Constitution 2010 as well as other supplementary legislations (World Bank, 2007).

Public participation faces many challenges that are hardly addressed. Governments in both developed and developing economies are non-committal to initiate public participation due to high time consumption. Project coordinators in many cases want to maintain sole control of their projects and activities: county officials are often rigid and do not appreciate the value of views of the local citizens. They regard themselves as experts in their area of specialization because they are in many cases the professionals and assume the community members to be ignorant and without knowledge in regard to the project being undertaken (Kurgat et al., 2018).

Public participation should be a systematic approach where the public is directly engaged in the process of decision-making and where public interests are considered in making specific development decisions. It involves series of activities and actions initiated by the implementing partners or agencies over the full project cycle for public information and obtaining their input for consideration (Wheeler, 2019). Governments not only need to create effective public engagement through public participation, but also create a symbiotic relationship between the citizens and the government (Bastidas, 2004).

In the USA, Public Participation is widely accepted but hardly practiced as it is constrained by issues like gender, education, race, and income (Kandil, 2002). The federal system has promoted the level of public participation in democracy in the USA on federal, state and local levels. Local level participation enhances the chances of the leadership undertaking projects that benefit the local community as opposed to those giving them status. Participation at the local level is achieved in several ways including: making presentation to local school boards, calling the police to register a complaint among other aspects. Local level participation in the USA has increased though varies largely depending on gender, age, ethnicity and education. Increased public awareness through information availed by civil society organizations and education have made this possible. Democracy at the local level forms a basic component of American Democracy Heritage which has contributed to increased participation among local residents. Historically, volunteer organizations, local governments and organizations acted as a link for participation and access of citizens to social and political systems (Lee, 2019). This has however changed following enhanced democracy at the local level.

According to Bohm (2018) The Federal State of German invites nonpartisan organizations to bid for contracts to carry out public participation concerning a particular project. The participation process is managed professionally with transparency and this builds a culture of participation in German. In addition, the country is technologically advanced and this gives a major milestone in terms of communication amongst the stakeholders.

Pickvance (2003) asserts that local government is not as democratic as the national government. Devolved units do not symbolize increased democracy. The year 2011 marked the beginning of democracy in Spain. Spanish people took to the streets and complained on lack of transparency and accountability in government projects. They demanded for enhancement of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) structures to facilitate whistle blowing against corrupt government officials.

Participatory democracy is practiced in South Africa and participation of the public is taken seriously and if any legislation is passed without public involvement, especially in the case of affected groups, it becomes invalid. The legislative system in South Africa has promoted participatory democracy through setting aside decisions undertaken without local participation. South Africa is a Constitutional democracy country that upholds representative and participatory democracy. The intrinsic value of democracy is found in Article 42(3) of South Africa's Constitution. Parties of Interest (citizens) in the formation of legislation should be granted a chance to air their views, whether it be a request to be taken seriously, or that their opinions are considered in influencing decisions in appropriate manner. Legislations need not collide with constitutional terms whether in matters of content or manner of adoption (Muriu, 2013). The progress has been good as many decisions that have been passed without public participation have been declared null and void by South African courts.

The Rwandan government has heavily invested in promoting the participation of citizens in formation of plans and budgets to ensure that planning and budgeting procedures are participatory. Majority of surveys and studies in Rwanda major on the assessment of citizens' level of participation and awareness. The country has been strict on enforcing public participation to the extent that some decisions are overturned whenever it is noted that no public participation took place. Despite this, limited studies have examined the relevance and importance of citizen participation in coming up with budgets and plans of a country within the African context. Monem (2016) acknowledges the deficit of studies on this within the Republic of Rwanda.

Studies on public participation in the developed economies revealed that the quality of public participation in this particular economy is better compared to the less developed economies. The developed economies are better placed to fund public participation forums than the developing economies. Public participation activities in countries like USA and German involves the use of modern technology unlike Rwanda which employs little or no technology. Information Technology makes it simpler for the citizens to receive government information and give feedback swiftly for implementation (Castells, 2012).

A study in Meru County, Kenya revealed that despite the intensive adverts in the local dailies on the dates and venues of public participation there is always a low turnout by the area residents (Mutwiri, 2016). In addition, there was very little civic education in the county to enable the people to participate effectively.

A similar study in Busia County also revealed that lack of adequate education leads to non-participation because illiteracy renders people unable to articulate their demands and opinions in a systematic manner. The study concluded that there was a lot of control of the poor majority by the powerful minority in decision making. Also, there was deficiency in public participation policy implementation and economic analysis to achieve and enhance project sustainability in Busia County (Papa, 2016).

A preview of public participation within Wote/Nziu ward indicate that locals do not turn up in large numbers whenever they are called upon by county leadership on matters affecting their constituents. This has resulted in a situation where the County implements some projects which are not supported by local communities thus resulting in huge losses. It is on this premise that this study sought to assess the factors affecting participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Kenya is developing economy and this makes the entire country rely on projects to realize development. These projects are usually undertaken with the aim of improving

livelihoods. The projects run the full project development cycle where local communities are required to take part in all. Despite the fact that the Makueni County Government has put on much effort in public participation, the residents of Wote/Nziu ward do not turn out as expected for public participation. Several forums have been organized where local residents of Wote/Nziu Ward have been invited to public *Barazas* to give their views on different projects planned to be undertaken in their area. However, the rate of attendance and participation of local residents has been low this affecting their contribution. Several forums organized for collection of public views on different projects affecting the local communities have seen very few local community members turn up and contribute effectively in decision making especially on priority projects. However, this has resulted in resistance among some citizens complaining that they were not involved by their county leadership in planning and implementation of thee said projects. This has resulted in the County Government of Makueni make decisions which have been seen as punitive to the local community. The local community has in turn claimed that the county leadership is dictatorial and not willing to listen to the residents. This study will seek to understand the factors affecting participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The study aims at looking into the factors influencing participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The specific study objectives were to:

- i. Establish the socioeconomic factors affecting participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward.
- ii. Establish the influence of political factors on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward.
- iii. Assess the effect of demographic characteristics of the participants on participation of the public in developmental projects of Wote/Nziu ward.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The study was guided by three questions

- i. To what extent do socio-economic factors affect public participation in developmental projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County?
- ii. To what extent do political factors affect public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County?
- iii. To what extent do demographic characteristics affect participation of the public in developmental projects in Wote/Nziu ward, Makueni County?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study might be used by County Governments of Makueni to identify the loopholes that hinder public participation and assist the development partners in formulating the proper policies in the devolved units. Through the information collected in this study, the County government will be able to understand some of the challenges in getting the local community members participate in forums organized hence inform the action plans of sensitizing the community in future to give these for a the attention it requires for quality decision making on matters affecting the local community.

The study might be useful to the County Government of Makueni and other development practitioners on the latest dimensions and scenarios of the current development and governance at the local level. Through the information collected in this study, Makueni County Government and other stakeholders will be able to understand the alignment of projects undertaken and the preference of community need hence forester future participation among the local community.

The study might help the consultants and the private sector to come up with proposals for addressing the problems facing the public sector in development projects for efficient service delivery in the public sector. The study will highlight the level of participation and identify the socio-economic factors affecting participation. This will inform the general public on what they need to do to ensure optimal participation of the local community.

The Kenya Government and the Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) might be enlightened on areas that need more resources and focus for the betterment of community projects. It will assess the effectiveness of participation policies and the Methods adopted in sensitizing the public to turn up for meetings. From the findings, it will recommend improvements for better public participation I local community projects.

This study might add more information and knowledge to the existing literature on public participation as well as providing study reference point to the future scholars and researchers interested in related studies.

The study would also contribute to growth of literature on public participation in Kenya for researchers and scholars in this area. In addition, the study will identify gaps the future scholars may focus on to grow the literature further.

### **1.6 Limitations**

Some of the limitations encountered in this study included respondents not willing to respond to the questionnaires due to the sensitivity of the matter under investigation. The researcher talked to them on the essence of the research and showed them letters of introduction from the University which confirmed that the research was purely academic. In addition, the research her assured the respondents that the information they provided was to be held in strict confidence and none of it would be leaked to unauthorized persons.

Time factor was also of essence because for one to have conclusive study it has been done for a considerable period of time which was not possible for this particular study. There was also little information and knowledge on this particular topic because little has been documented because on devolution being a new phenomenon. The study mitigated this limitation by benchmarking to other countries that has implemented public participation including USA, South Africa and Rwanda.

Some of the respondents thought that the study had been commissioned by one of the local politicians who wanted to use the information to launch their political campaigns. To allay these fears, the researcher showed the respondents an introduction letter from SEKU University confirming that the study was purely academic.

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

The study was carried out in both the urban and rural areas of Wote/Nziu ward of Makueni County. The objectives covered the effect of socioeconomic factors on participation of the public in development projects; the role of political factors on public participation in development projects; and the effect of demographic characteristics of the participants on participation of the public in developmental projects. The study was undertaken in the month of February, 2022.

### **1.8 Assumptions of the Study**

The assumption in this study is that the participants' socio-economic, political and demographic factors are independent variables that affect public participation in development projects in Makueni County. The study assumed that respondents' information is valid and correct and will assist in valid data generation. The other assumption is that the selected sample is an accurate representation of the general population.

### **1.9 Scope of the Study**

The area of study is carried out within Wote/Nziu ward which represent urban and rural setting respectively. They represent lowest level where public participation has been conducted to ensure that both rural and urban populations are involved in the research. The study factored both those who have been involved and those who have not been involved in public participation. The participants included 15 Key Informants comprising 5 County Officers from Devolution and Planning, 5 County Officers from Water and Sanitation Department and 5 County Officers from the Health Department. Eight five (85) study participants were randomly selected from households within Wote /Nziu



Ward. Careful sampling ensured that 35 women, 30 men and 20 youths participate in the study.

### **1.10 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into six chapters. Chapter one covers the background where concepts and contexts are discussed to bring out the need of undertaking the study in the problem statement. It also highlights objectives, research questions and the ways in which the study will be significant to different stakeholders. The disadvantages / limitations, together with assumptions and the finally organization of study.

Chapter two covers review of literature derived from relevant studies carried out on public participation. This is meant to bring out what other scholars have done and how it contributed to the current study.

Chapter three covers the research methodology where the design and population are discussed. It also presents the instruments to be used in collecting data and how data will be analyzed. It highlights ethical considerations observed by the study too.

Chapter 4 covers data analysis and presentation. While Chapter five is composed of discussion of the findings. The study ends with chapter six, which is composed of the conclusions and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a review of literature related to the study so as to identify gaps justifying this study. It starts off with a discussion on the dependent variable – public participation before proceeding to independent variables (social economic factors, political factors and demographic characteristics). It then presents theoretical and conceptual frameworks and the summary of literature reviewed.

#### **2.2 A Worldwide Survey of Public Participation**

Countries in Europe have fully embraced the idea of public participation. These countries have always encouraged their people to participate in policy decisions bearing a direct effect on their lives. Through public for a, the public is accorded an opportunity to review, critique and improve on development plans so that the projects can have optimal impact on the community (Olken, 2010). It also helps in prioritizing projects so that key projects that benefit the community are implemented first as those with less impact are implemented later. The possibility for the participation of the members of the public in Europe is ever rising. For instance, the adoption of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information increased the level of public participation in environmental matters for sustainable development.

It is however important to note that, a comparative study between German and Spain clearly demonstrates that most local governments in the two countries use citizen participation to increase the level of perceived legitimacy to comply with legal requirements without really taking advantage of citizen participation to enhance decision making that is people centered (Acerete,2011).

Different methods and avenues of directly including citizens at the grass root levels directly in the process of making decisions have been actualized by use of the developments in the field of technology. A good example of such developments is the use of internet where portals are created and members of the public requested to post their

reviews. Extra awareness on the modes of participation is necessary for optimal participation of the local communities. There are various communication channels and more understanding of governments' intentions to the citizens and consideration as a method of democratic exchanges (Healey, 2012). The whole of this has made it easier for the citizens to be involved in the form of an interactive interchanges between those who formulate decisions and the citizens who hearten both the leaders and the people to exchange their views (Chilvers, 2013). These dynamic modes have been used at a higher rate at different levels, in the developed economies World and other parts of the world. However, there is a disconnect between theory and the practical part. In political theory, the theoretical discussion has questioned the avenues and the limitations of deliberating in public in details, but the model of the process of participation has failed to show these debates. This is seen when organizers of the events are not experts on matters concerned with democracy, but are well versed in matters to do with other subjects of participating in the making of decisions and focusing on the content. This has resulted in total failure to the projects not only at implementation but also in developmental levels (Claire, 2006).

The United Kingdom government has made a tremendous effort to improve the rate at which people take part in policies, decisions, and services in their public life (Bowles, Hamilton, and Levy, 2014). UK citizenry has been directly influential at all levels as the authorities have sworn publicly to raise the level at which people involve themselves in the processes and their own empowerment (Skidmore *et.al*, 2008). Public participation is embraced not only in England but all over the UK and both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have paid great attention and emphasis on the idea of public participation whereby the masses have the mandate to take part in a vital function in matters regarding to development (Devas *et.al*, 2003). In the UK, the government takes care of the cost of public participation instead of the private sector and civil societies (Stella, 2007).

County governments spend the most globally (World Bank, 2007). In Kenya, expenditures vary in different counties but according to sources, for example, Knight *et al.* (2011), the argument is that government expenditure on public services takes a share of the GDP ranging from 15-45%. This figure greatly affects the national economy. Most,

if not all developing countries depend on projects for local development. These developmental projects aim at improving community livelihoods. Their sound management wholly depends on careful project selection, implementation, design, and monitoring/evaluation. In addition, it is important to consider the norms, values, social opinions and beliefs of the local people, as these are directly or indirectly affected by development projects. Public participation provides room for the citizens to make their own recommendations regarding development projects (Doubleday and Wynne, 2011).

Lack of effective public participation in development activities is a common challenge. The participation pattern dynamics of a particular community are determined by group cultures, beliefs, values and power relationships and social capital/networks. However, public participation is not clearly understood or remains undocumented (Healey, 2012).

Indeed, there is no consensus in the literature on what public participation entails and factors that contribute or inhibit public participation. Interests and participation motivation of different individuals concerning project development may vary within the same community. In other cases, it has been observed that project officials or county officials may not be willing to allow third party in the project activities and direct control (Pallett and Chilvers, 2013). In other cases, it is low public participation culture, limited access to information and lack of commitment from the various stakeholders that contribute to lack of effective public participation.

### **Public participation in the African Context**

African countries have in the recent past been marked with serious constraints in integration of participation and citizen empowerment in all areas of development process (Karamoko, 2011). Recent rapid urbanization and globalization has made different African nations to get into conflicts. Rural-Urban movement and the increase in cultural diversity and economic challenges to improve the current African society are some of the challenges that face public participation (Macia, 2016). Ethnicity is a major blow to public participation in cases whereby a certain minority is not allowed to participate in issues governing the society (Megumi, 2017).

Democratization and the demand for national political factors in African countries were witnessed in the late 1980s; African countries and international agencies manifested a renewed interest in decentralization of policy (Jibrin, 2005). Decentralization was seen as a means by which authority and power controls from the top of the state could be brought closer to the people by devolving the functions. Civil society actors and political opponents supported decentralization – subsequently by promoting citizen involvement at various levels.

Devolved functions became key elements of democratization processes, making some reference to current policies as ‘democratic decentralization’ (Crook and Manor 1998). Others see devolution as a legal approach that is centralized in its administration techniques and as a political approach of sharing powers between central and local authorities in a country (Mbaku, 2003). The political transition in most African countries has been marked with drama and chaotic approaches have been witnessed with the civil societies and human rights movement spearheading democracy issues. Authoritarian regimes have been adamant to incorporate democracy to their development matters and decision-making (Zeleka, 1997).

The Ugandan government initiated its constitution making process in the year 1988 and the entire process took eight years to be completed (Barya, 2009). There was intense public involvement in the process of formulating the modern Ugandan constitution. Other countries such as South Africa and Eritrea followed Uganda’s example and embraced the new political approach of participatory model in their constitutional reforms towards the attainment of democratic political culture in respective countries (Asiimwe, 2002).

Great emphasis to citizen participation in decision making in not only planning but also in implementation process. Political scientists and development experts strongly point out that there is no attachment to constitutions, which is a primary barrier to democratic consolidation (Lee, 2019). Political leaders can violate the constitution in many different ways if left to work on their own without the involvement of the public leading to impunity. In addition, a constitution serves as a guide to the citizens of any given country

and it is a respectably acceptable and irrevocably social agreement that joins the citizens and their leaders (Cooper and Schindler, 2011). Those who formulated the constitution of Uganda greatly embraced the idea of involving the public in the process as a way of developing a strong foundation for support for the document. Traditional educators of democracy, for example, Rousseau (1968), de Tocqueville (1945) and Mill (1948), and other modern participatory theories, among them Barber (1984) and Pateman (1970) maintain that the main role of engagement is to gain support from the masses for the political system. They further continue and argue that participation increase people's interest, morale to understand the system and this builds attachment of the mind to the society and the existing structures, and institutions. Public participation greatly creates a feeling of duty to respect the laws of the land and fosters dedication to the well-being of the individual and the society (Nyong'o, 1995).

In Kenya, the current system of devolution is a good example of a devolved government that represents the country's biggest transformation since independence. This structure is made up of a centralized national government and forty-seven county governments (Mbithi, Ndambuki and Juma, 2018). Each county has its own county government, made up of county assemblies with legislative powers and county executives with powers to enforce laws and policies (Lubale, 2012). Public involvement reinforces self-governance, accountability, improves the quality of the process and the outcomes of better decisions, manages social conflicts, and intensifies the process of legitimacy (Fung, 2016).

As Wheeler states (2019), public involvement is the active participation of the local population in decision-making and execution of development projects. The Kenyan government through devolution has called for recognition of the people as the consumers of the services and the most profitable assets since they are all aware of their demands and how to solve their development matters than the external development actors and agencies (Mbithi, Ndambuki and Juma, 2018).

Residents' involvement ensures that they are accorded the chance to improve their livelihoods through their own initiatives. Devolution is considered a form of political

decentralization that involves total transfer of responsibility, making decisions, assets as well generation of revenue to a low level of citizen jurisdiction that is sovereign and fully non-dependent from the delegating authority (Anderson, 2006).

Dissemination embraces key elements of contribution in formulating decisions, self-governance, fairness and liberty from the authorities (Fung, 2016). According to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 Article the objects of devolution of government are; To promote democratic and accountable exercise of power; to foster national unity by recognizing diversity; to give powers of self- governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them; to recognize the right of the communities to manage their own affairs and further their development; to protect and promote the interests and the rights of minorities and marginalized communities; to promote social and economic development and the provision of proximate ,easily accessible services throughout Kenya; to ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources throughout Kenya; to facilitate the decentralization of state organs, their functions and services from the capital of Kenya and ; to enhance checks and balances and the separation of powers (Mbithi, Ndambuki and Juma, 2018).

The objects of devolution include following: to foster self-governance and accountability; to promote the unity of the nation through by ensuring diversity is recognized; to offer powers of democracy to the citizens and amplify the contribution of the locals in the application of powers of the country and in coming up with the decisions that affect them; to safeguard and uphold the interests and freedoms of the minor groups and the written off societies; to advance communal and money-making developments as well as provision of direct and easily accessible resources in the country; to make sure that there is a fair sharing of both the local and national assets in the country; to ease the localization of the organs of the state, their roles and services from the capital; to augment checks and balances and the disconnection of powers and finally to attain the aims of devolution which are the essential blocks for its founding.

The County Government Act, Kenya (2013) and other laws of devolution instructs the devolved governments to involve the citizens in the process of making laws and planning, facilitate communal transmission and access to statistics, establishment of citizen forums and providing civic education, among others. The County government Act, Kenya (2013) Charter provides for the participation of the citizens in the exercise of the powers of the State and in decision-making by means of indirect and direct participation of the people in the policy-making process (Article 232. (D), taking part in the legislative process of the National Assembly, the Senate and the County Assembly.

Article 196 of the Constitution gives citizen rights of involvement in the activities of the County Assembly, Republic of Kenya (2010). This envisages promotion of accountability in governance to the citizens and communities become defenders of transparency and accountability.

The Governor in the respective county is bestowed with the full accountability through facilitating and reporting on participation by the public in their areas of jurisdiction. This should be handled by the different agencies and departments in the county. For the County Assembly, the function is on the Speaker and Chairpersons of the Committees of the House.

Despite different mechanisms provided in the Kenya Constitution 2010, there are challenges that hinder this process of citizen involvement. The factors range from social, economic, political and demographic factors. Some counties invite the public in public participation forums without prior knowledge of what they are coming to discuss (Mbithi et al., 2018). Necessary documents are never given in time for the public to go through in advance thus limiting effective participation process. Same reason hinders the public from attending such forums and the few who turn up rarely contribute because they lack prior knowledge on the issues being discussed Social, economic constraints fueled by political factors have slowed down the adoption of effective public participation (Kipchumba, 2018).



## **2.3 Socio - economic Factors Affecting Public Participation**

Several socio-economic factors have great impact on public participation including: Public awareness, education level, civil society Effect and economic factors.

### **2.3.1 Role of Public Awareness in Public Participation**

Some counties invite the public in public participation forums without prior knowledge of what they are coming to discuss. Necessary documents are never given in time for the public to go through in advance and this interferes with effective participation process.

Citizen awareness is a key element in ensuring that the masses participate in matters of their own development. Citizens can only take part in administration if they know of the upcoming events in order to take part in decision-making and implementation (Thwala, 2010). For members of the public to fully involve in matters of their own administration, they must be politically involved and have access to information. They need to be politically conscious, know their rights and responsibilities besides understanding the avenues through which they can exercise their rights. It means that they need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities as well as understand the mechanisms through which they can channel their views concerning their own development matters (Dee, 2016).

Information access is one of the modes through which individuals become aware of chances available for them to take part in governance and get the skills and knowledge on how to collaborate. Individual involvement is only achievable when individual capacity development of the citizens has been done effectively to enable them to participate in decision making. Capacity development used to refer to a group of skills and knowledge that enables people to execute a certain duty or activity (Keartland, 2014). For effective participation by the public in administration, citizens are expected to be aware of their duties and responsibilities more importantly they need knowledge and skills on how to execute the responsibilities (Dee, 2016). Public consciousness without the knowledge on how to participate may not have any effect on public participation in development projects. It obstructs the ability of citizens to effectively participate in governance. To a

great extent, public awareness and participation is effective when the community is literate (Lubale, 2012).

Mutwiri (2016) examined the factors influencing public participation among Meru County residents on projects undertaken by their County government. The objectives concentrated on community awareness, effect of demographic factors on participation economic and behavioral factors. The study noted the important of setting up specialized group process techniques to promote public awareness through crafting visual messages. It was motivated by the level of exclusion of vulnerable community members who were not accorded an opportunity to air their views on matters that had a direct effect on their lives. Through descriptive design targeting members of the public and county government of Meru employees, the study established that concluded that behavioral factors had the greatest Effect on Public Participation in the County Integrated Development Planning Process followed by demographic factors, then economic factors while the level of community awareness had the least effect. The study identified economic factors affecting participation as including: perceived economic benefits from the county development project, estimated time for revenue generation, level of individual income, and awareness on the other economic generating opportunities.

In another study, Khatibi, Dedekorkut-Howes, Howes and Torabi (2021) examined whether public awareness coupled with knowledge and engagement affected climate change adaptation policies through journal analysis. The study appreciated the need for the community to be aware of the risks, besides the options available for the purposes of being empowered to take their own actions in mitigating the effects of climate change. It focused on direct and active form of participation where citizens were empowered to come up with decisions aimed at coming up with solutions to their day to day challenges. This study focused on public participation and awareness on matters related to climate change and not development projects initiated by developed governance hence presents a gap for the current study.

### **2.3.2 Education Level and its Effect on Public Participation**

Fakere and Ayoona (2018) opined that education plays an important role in democratic systems across the world. The level of education affects their knowledge on matters being discussed in relation to projects. It is argued that lack of education hinders people from participating in such forums especially in towns where the participants are not allowed to speak in their local language. Development projects and sustainability at the community level on greater heights depends on how educated the people are and their level of skills. Literacy, therefore, stands out as a major factor that determines how well the people will take part in the process. Individuals who have been to school rarely take in the issues to do with administration practically and their illiteracy becomes a big obstacle for them to participate. Illiterate individuals may not be in a position to coordinate their needs and put forward their opinions in a coherent way. Therefore, illiteracy leads people to nonparticipation.

In another study, Kwena (2013) examined factors influencing efficient participation of community members in development projects in Kilgoris Constituency, Narok County. The study noted that education was perceived as the password for entering into the development intervention. Education enabled community members to analyze projects critically so as to understand its effect on the livelihood of their people. It was noted that meaningful participation was a function of the educational status of community people. The level of literacy rate among the citizens affects their contributions to development projects proposed by the devolved governance. It was illustrated that illiterate people did not vividly understand practical details of a project hence making it difficult for them to contribute effectively to development projects.

### **2.3.3 Civil Society Effect on Public Participation**

Kinyanjui (2018) examined the factors that affected civil society participation in community projects within Nairobi County. The study acknowledged the role played by civil society organizations (CSOs) as mediators between the government and their citizens where they enhanced chances of citizenry speaking out freely without fear of being victimized. These CSOs were established for the purposes of presenting

community grievances to the governments at different levels. They achieved this role by closely monitoring the procedures adopted by government official in discharging their duties thereby reducing chances of corruption and poor service delivery. The study established that CSOs participation enhanced the level of accountability among government officials besides higher quality service delivery. Civil participation enhanced healthcare service delivery. The study however focused on factors influencing civil participation, CSOs' level of awareness and participation and civil engagement on healthcare management. The study did not focus on variables which form the conceptual framework of this study.

In another study, Storeng and Puyvalle (2018) examined different ways that civil society participation Affected performance of global public private partnership projects of healthcare delivery. The study adopted a structured analysis of publicly available documents of 18 of the largest global public–private partnerships for health. The findings indicate that majority of the CSO actors have a relatively low level of representation within the partnerships' boards and steering committees. Their main role within these partnerships seems to be to implement projects and advocate and raise funds.

A study by Haque (2009) holds that strong gallant community is vital in ensuring that members' participation is facilitated. It is noted that parochial administrations at times have to be coerced by civil society organizations. Moreover, to this gallant community, organizations that are involved in matters of administration play a crucial part in public apprehension by giving information on the available resources and chances, improving the capacity of the locals to take part in matters pertaining to their own development. Civil societies lobby for resources and opportunities from the authorities. Muriu (2013) argues that the kitties that are used in devolution do not give room for capacity building hence this function is left to the private sector and NGOs. The above key elements therefore magnify participation by the members of the public in county administration. Citizen involvement in community projects in turn strengthens well-organized governance through ways such as efficient resource allocation, which implies the project

or program delivered to the citizenry by the executive match what they prefer (Bamberger, 2016).

It is measured by crosschecking whether people's needs that were laid in manifestos are thrown back in the resolutions and outcome given. As Mohammed (2012) asserts, through association by members of the public, regional administration has a good understanding of the felt needs of the community. Public participation enhances transparency, accountability and reduction of corruption is vital in making citizen participation effective. Liability means that the implementers who in this case refer to the county governments are tasked with the financial expenditure and funds allocation (Muriu, 2013).

In this case, the government agents share all the necessary information on what has been spent in either monetary or any technical expenditure. As Devas and Grant (2003) note, members of a country should have corrected all attainable statistics about utilization of funds by the regional government. They should avail information about public assets, production, statements, balance sheets and other financial pointers that are fundamental in their development projects. Collective involvement ensures that the regime constantly circulates ideas on its actions especially on disbursement. This ensures that the citizens at the grass root level can monitor and track the monies being used by the government to improve on their livelihoods (Gupta, 2017).

Majority of the people who participate in public participation are the unemployed people and, in most cases, lack facilitation in terms of transport, accommodation and food and they end up not turning up for the public hearings (Oakley, 2013). Venues for public participation are mostly located in the urban centers and in most cases the rural folk are likely not to attend due to the travelling distance.

#### **2.3.4 Socio- Economic Factors and their Effect on Public Participation**

Public participation is highly believed to be dependent on income levels of the individuals. The higher the income levels the higher the chances of participation in

community projects (Oakley, 2013). Hence, a household with low-income levels is strongly believed to have low participation by contributing money. Additionally, poverty and lack of facilitation to attend public participation and its many behavioral implications can be a powerful obstacle towards motivation involvement in development projects. It can thus be concluded that a small income level has an impact on participation. People's economic state has also an impact on full participation in many areas run by not only regional governments but also any development agencies. Economically, the rich elite of the society frequently create associations with the appointed spokespersons and use their positions to ensure personal gains (Mbaku, 2003). The rich minority in the society have the power to control who is elected in the area of interest. They again make use of their position in the society to make influential decisions regarding to development projects. Their social identity, success and the civic fame they enjoy in the community is paramount and it gives them a good platform to participate in public forums and be on the lead in all the projects (Omolo, 2018).

In a study, Fakere and Ayoola studied how socioeconomic characteristics affected community participation in infrastructure provision using data collected from Nigeria. The study underscored the important role played by community participation in enhancing residents' satisfaction and the level of ownership of projects undertaken by the government. Key socioeconomic characteristics considered in this study included: age, gender, income level, highest level of education, position held in the household, marital status, sources of finance: employed or unemployed or self employed, retired, household size, sources used to finance housing, among others. The study established that some of the socioeconomic variables are indeed significant predictors of participation in infrastructure provision. Significant socioeconomic predictors included: level of education, tenure status, marital status, gender, monthly income, household size, sources of finance, and employment status.

In another study, Hussein (2017) used data collected from Muthurwa and Kaloleni estates to measure the effect that socio-economic factors had on Community Participation in Redevelopment Planning of Nairobi. The factors considered included: gender balance,

income level, age of residents, and Ethnic balance of the groups, social status, education level and ability (disability). The study adopted a case study design and questionnaire. The findings indicate that resident associations should focus on the socio-economic factors influencing community participation for adequate contributions from members of all age groups, both genders, a wide array of income groups and people of different social standing.

## **2.4 Effect of Political Factors on Public Participation**

Projects are affected by political factors in different ways. Some of the political factors are political inclinations and nepotism.

### **2.4.1 Role of Political Inclination on Public Participation**

Political inclination and status in the society affect the rate and standard of civic involvement. Political tendency Effects the standards of citizens' participation; at other times not all people's ideas or contribution is put into consideration (Kwena, 2013). In some regions, during the process of public participation, leaders who have been elected tend to separate against those who did not take part in choosing them or those who have different ideas such that only those who agree with the political leaders whose views are likely to be acted upon (Vera et.al 1995). In such situations, they give views that only seem to be favorable on their side and not the entire community. This kills the people's morale on genuine issues or better ideas from raising them during the congregations in fear of intimidation. Some politicians transport and even hire their goons to the public forums so that they can force their wishes to the people who are considered the minority or the weak (Zezeza, 2018).

Kwena (2013) noted that political background of stakeholders Effect the level of participation and participation outcomes. Stakeholders who are dominant politically have been found to thwart participation of their colleagues who are reserved and not inclined to any political affiliation. This has seen the interests of political elites and administrators carrying the day thereby shaping outcomes. It is further noted that instead of projects being selected based on local peoples' urgent needs and demands, political interferences

have been applied to choose projects spearheaded by local ruling political leaders. In some cases, this has involved elected local representatives. In most cases, patron client networks have been put into play under the bureaucratic structure of the country which makes public participation difficult.

#### **2.4.2 Nepotism and its Effects on Public Participation**

Nepotism is commonly used to refer to the act of allocating jobs and opportunities to relatives or cronies in public offices and other areas such as business, sports, entertainment, and religion among other activities. Nepotism is using an individual's power to get good jobs or unwarranted benefits for a member of a family even if they may not have the required expertise in the area (Republic of Kenya, 2013). According to an EACC survey, the most outstanding forms of corruption in counties are bribery, nepotism and misappropriation of funds. Acquisition irregularities, poor use of office, conflict of interest and poor implementation of projects are the order in which the form of graft is perpetuated in counties. The EACC report reveals purchases, finances, civil service commissions, highways and public infrastructure are the county government agencies most vulnerable to corruption (United Nations, 2015). There are cases whereby projects are implemented in some areas where certain political leaders come from as a way of rewarding them (Luc, 2014).

Several studies have been done on the Effect of nepotism on public participation.

Vveinhardt and Sroka (2020) examined nepotism and favouritism using microclimate data from Polish and Lithuanian Organizations. The study noted that nepotism and favoritism had negative effects on public participation because it denied deserving public members a chance to take part in decision making processes. In situations where these two cases exist, there have been high levels of intolerance towards unfair behavior. The study used organizational context and how employees related with one another. The current study focuses on community cohesion and participation in public awareness.



## **2.5 Demographic Factors and their Effect on Public Participation**

Demographic characteristics Effect public participation. They include gender, marital status and age of the participants.

### **2.5.1 Gender and Public Participation**

The word ‘gender’ is used to refer to a description of masculinity or femininity. However, words, emotions, personal attributes, social institutions and systems can all be defined as gendered. For example, gender could describe the association of specific societal roles with a masculine or a feminine role. This means that gender represents the social creation and appearance of masculinity or femininity (Mukhopadhyay, 2005).

Women should be actively involved in development issues during the project cycle, beginning with participatory preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of information filters at various levels, in order to gain new insights into action. Gender mainstreaming and the participatory phase are a crucial factor in all development agendas (Agbalajobi, 2010).

The process of information gathering opinions and analysis, and the search for solutions should put women at the forefront in the development matters. Channeling of information and data needs to be well transmitted in a way, which exposes and explains the project goals and the implementation strategies to arrive at reasonable conclusions to feed back into the project strategy. Questions still need to be posed about who collects and analyses the data. If there is no critical analysis of the gender dynamics, there is a risk that men and women will not be fully represented and will be isolated from equal participation of their social relations that affect their well-being (Gupte, 2004).

Well thought-out mechanisms, research and social action by various parts of the society must be at the center of the overall strategy of involvement. Many development players recognized that there is a need for systemic reform to have a meaningful effect on development projects. However, the institutionalization of these elements in terms of meaningful practice is not straightforward, considering the involvement of too many

stakeholders in development and their varying views and sometimes competing gender preferences. Institutional constraints and opportunities restrict gender mainstreaming and participation in all aspects of the project. Whenever women are placed in leadership positions concerning projects, they are usually perceived to be weak and in need of guidance. This deters them from making strong decisions especially in male dominated institutions (Mukhopadhyay, 2005).

Women should be given the opportunity to play a crucial role as producers and agents of reform in development programs, keeping in mind that they have limited representation in rural development. This is due to gender inequality and marginalization (Mwenda, 2010). Women are viewed as inferior to men in the African culture and are still oppressed in society (Kothari et.al, 2001). The position of women in rural areas clearly indicates that they should not play a leading role in the male-dominated establishment. The 1994 African Common Position on Human and Social Development Forum identifies women as part of the disadvantaged, vulnerable groups of the population, who are clustered together with girls, youth and persons with disabilities (Asiimwe, 2002).

### **2.5.2 Age and its Effect on Public Participation**

Majority of the Kenyan population is comprised of the youth. Those aged 18-35 years of age comprise 75% of the Kenyan population. This group is marginalized in terms of access to opportunities and representation (Jibowo, 1996).

Youth are a vast number of citizens involved in the protection of human rights and have sponsored numerous efforts to foster peace and democracy in recent years. They are generally at the frontline of environmental promotion programs by specialist organizations and youth associations and commissions. They also take the lead in volunteering for charitable groups such as the Kenya Red Cross Society. However, when it comes to government opportunities and activities, they are usually excluded from matters pertaining to their own development. It is instructive to note that the potential in the Kenyan youth is untapped because most of their views are rarely implemented. Traditionally, the opinions of older adults are prioritized because of the belief that they

have greater knowledge and experience than young people do. In urban environments, younger people have greater access to knowledge than their rural counterparts have and may be more interested in decision-making processes (Bamberger, 2016).

However, this depends to a large degree on the modes of communication and interaction used by governments. A big number of the Kenyan youth use of modern means of communication such as the Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp as a means to relays information. Social media is more appealing to the youth compared to the old ways of doing public barazas, which is mostly used by the government officials. Youth are prone to reject government systems on the grounds of their interactions with the government, misinformation and general feelings on their opinions being dismissed (Barya, 2009). Due to the current dynamics and age gap between the youth and the older people, the broader majority of their communities may not take youth priorities and needs as a priority. For example, an agricultural center may receive more popular support compared to a public cyber café for the youth. With insufficient capacity, building and access to funding, youth tend to feel like complete outsiders in their own home counties, which is a major cause of negative attitudes, frustration, and social exclusion.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

There are many theories related to public participation. For this particular study one theory has been selected: The theory of participatory democracy.

### **2.6.1 Theory of Participatory Democracy**

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) is one of the most important theorists of the ideal democracy. Rousseau advocated for a system that upholds direct democracy whereby the people are mandated with the responsibility to decide on all the content of all their laws (Rousseau, 1712). His metaphor of a body and its parts was used to imply that a political community and its members are vital for explaining the meaning of freedom. He goes further and argues that every body part has to be in agreement with the body (Bertram, 2004). Laws function appropriately in cases whereby everybody benefits from them. Participatory democracy advocates for collective decision making whereby the citizens

have the power to make decisions on policy proposals and on the other hand, the political leaders bestowed with the responsibility to implement the policies (Kothari et al., 2001).

The citizenry plays the oversight role by monitoring the politicians by comparing their proposals with what is being implemented. Participatory democracy can be described as a sequential process that consists of three stages: a deliberation stage, a negotiation stage and finally the monitoring stage. At the deliberation stage citizens participate in public forums to decide on the projects that are a priority to them. The grass roots majority are entrusted with the mandate to make prime decisions concerning their own development needs. The next stage is negotiation stage whereby the public and the agency agree on the investment plan. This is then followed by budget approval, which is done by the government.

The citizens then monitor the execution of the investment plan. By so doing, accountability is highly promoted due to the direct involvement of the citizens in the process. Public participation forums are hence communicated to the people to attend the proceedings on matters pertaining to their own development (Fung, 2016). The masses have a free will to attend depending on the impact of their presence. In participatory democracy, citizens are the first ones to make a policy proposal and this is followed by their feedback. The citizens are the ones who decide if the project will be implemented or not (Tocqueville, 2003). Legislators in many countries are rewarded by the citizens through re-electing or re-appointing them depending on their performance in the previous tenure. Before any general elections are held the, the citizens evaluate the legislators and decide whether to re-elect the person or not (Luc, 2014).

Devolution in Kenya is designed to engage citizen participation by bringing government services, elected representation and decision making closer to the people. The devolution process reinforces the Constitution of Kenya's new system of government in which citizen participation is a key ingredient of devolved governance. The applicability of participatory democracy in the county development projects is embraced as a powerful tool to reduce poverty and empower marginalized groups. This particular approach gives

emphasis on creating partnerships and using participatory and people-centered approaches to tackle development matters. Participatory democracies are aimed at reducing poverty and achieve the desired empowerment, transformation and sustainability effect. Sustainability initiatives are the aim of designing and effectively launching a project that will continue to produce benefits for an extended period of time.

Participatory democracy seeks to ensure the empowerment of people through access to all pertinent knowledge needed for making informed decisions. It is an effective weapon to resolve the disparities of income and Effects that hinder participation. The grassroots mechanisms that allow decisions to be taken directly at the relevant level by those affected are enhanced by public involvement. It also offers strong support for the voice of young people through education, empowerment and support for youth engagement in any development programme.

Participatory democracy theory has paved way for a transitional process from an ancient way of addressing development matters in the counties. This methodology varies from the top-down methods that governed early development programs to more locally sensitive methodologies. The concept of democratic engagement is deeply Affected by growth theory and is thus widely varied and nuanced due to various theoretical positions. There are several approaches to participatory democracy theory focused on the study of historical and ideological concepts. The persistence of top-down approaches to growth can be traced back to the modernization theory that prevailed in the 1960s (Coetzee, 2001). Modernized theories promote peoples participation with neighborhood problems that meet their own growth needs. In comparison to the top-down approach to sustainability, the bottom-up approach calls for grass-roots people to initiate their own development projects. For the liberation of oppressed people, bottom up approach is of great importance to promote a social transition of economic and political institutions into a fundamentally transformed society.

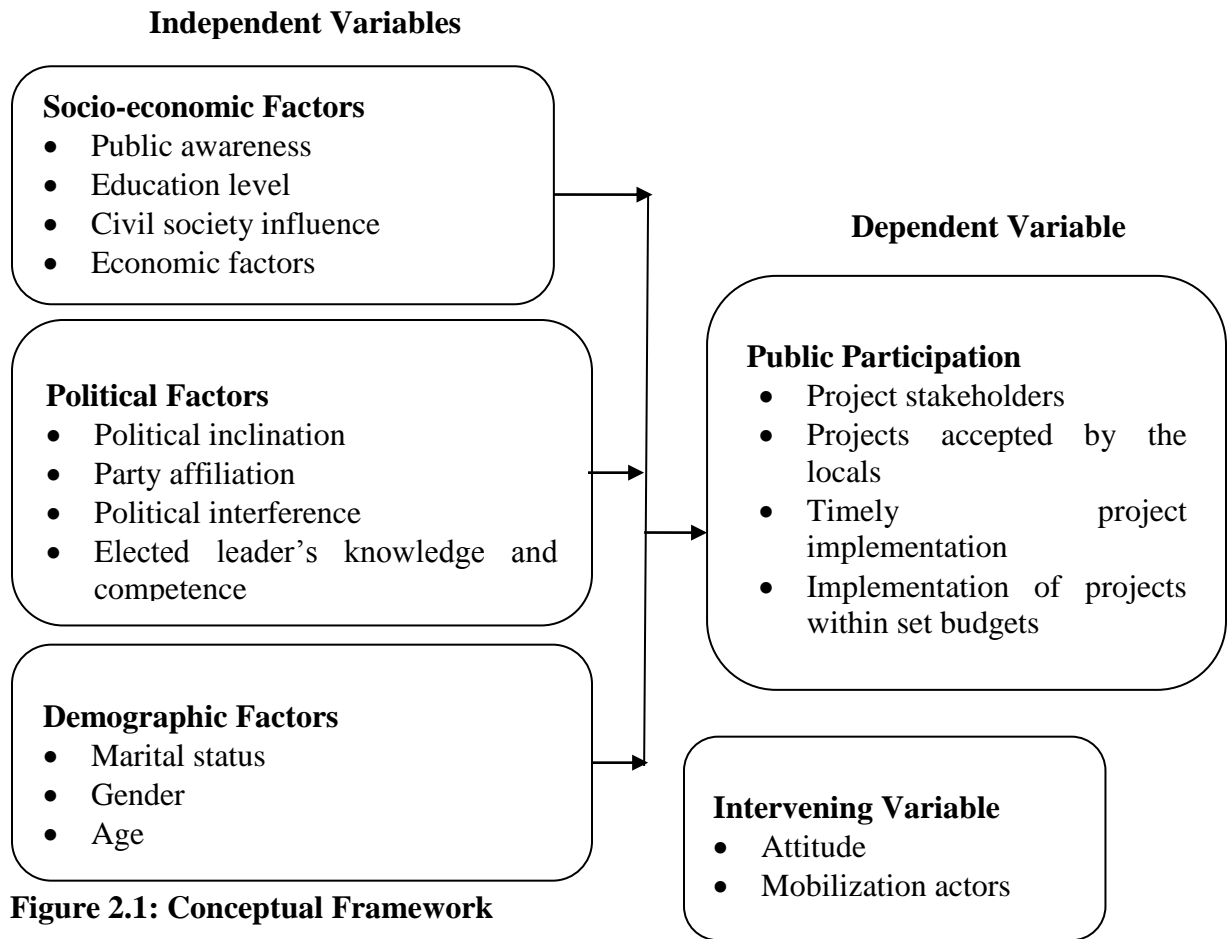
Civil society is free to put pressure on non-responsive institutions to uphold political cohesion and good governance. From a critical point of view, social movements and

neighborhood change organizations are distinguished by the increasing dynamics of relationships and disputes between civil society organizations and government actors (Martinez, 2012). NGOs and social movements have the ability to alter current systems in order to achieve real agents of transformational development through participatory approaches.

Societies require development to be approached with the primary goal of a better life in order to fulfill their basic needs. For the average citizen, growth requires ample food to consume, availability of affordable facilities, and quality health. Public engagement and the power of civil society are significant in the sense that more is being achieved and services can be delivered more cheaply (Panny, 2011). Participatory development has become a catalyst for further progress and creates a sense of responsibility, ensures that there is a felt need, means that things are done in the right way, uses useful cultural knowledge, frees people from reliance on the expertise of others and makes people more mindful of the reasons of their suffering and what they should do about it.

## **2.7 The Conceptual Framework**

Conceptual definition is an aspect of the empirical analysis method in which a given concept is described as a measurable phenomenon or in measurable terms; it gives one the sense of the concept (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Conceptual structure is a diagrammatic description of the relationship between dependent and independent variables.



**Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework**

**Source: (Researcher 2022)**

The conceptual structure is designed to provide a consistent relation between dependent and independent variables when they relate to each other in this analysis. Independent variables are social economic factors, political factors; demographic characteristics of the participants are all factors which affect public involvement in development projects. Public participation in construction programs is the dependent variable. It is clear that active public engagement in development projects is affected by independent variables such as socio-economic conditions, political factors and demographic characteristics of the participants. While independent variables have a direct effect on public involvement in development projects and implementations, there are interference and modification variables that have an indirect impact on the criteria set and timelines which affect public

participation. Intervening factors such as political activities, regulations and personality attributes, (attitudes and practices) affect the level of public participation.

The socio-economic factors were operationalized in terms of levels of civil society Effect, income level of the households, and cohesion among the residents. Political factors were measured by the political inclination of the leaders in the county and the local administrative ward. This included the political affiliations in terms of coalitions and their relationship with the central government's ruling party. This was further measured by the level of political interference by the county and central government in terms of provision of finances and dictation on how they are to be used. The study further measured political factors in terms of elected leader's knowledge and competence.

Demographic factors were analyzed in terms of the marital status of the residents and respondents, their gender, and age. This affected their level of involvement in different engagement forums organized by the county leadership. It also reviewed educational achievements achieved by the respondents.

The dependent variable was public participation measured in terms of level of involvement by stakeholders in decisions made on development projects, their taking part in different phases of project implementation, the knowledge the possessed-on progress of the development projects and timeliness with which the projects were implemented. It also considered the implementation budget as compared to the provided budgets.

The intervening variables comprised the factors influencing the way identified factors affected public participation. This included attitude of the local citizen towards their county leaders and the development projects they propose. This also touched on the individuals engaged to help mobilize local residents to turn up in public Barraza.

## **2.8 Summary of Literature Review**

The most recent literature suggests that civic engagement has become one of the most critical conditions and is necessary for the execution of programs and initiatives and



almost a requirement for attracting projects and programs. Furthermore, the international community, regional and national development players, as well as common momentum to open up government decision-making mechanisms, are urging national governments to take action to increase transparency, engagement and accountability.

Previous studies in both developed countries and developing countries, however reveals that the development agencies together with the governments use citizen participation to create a sense of perceived legitimacy and comply with the international standards of citizen participation without much emphasis in actual benefits to the grassroots majority (Acerete, 2011).

Given several reports on civic engagement, the researcher states that there are fields that contribute to an awareness deficit. First, recent experiments have been performed in more industrialized countries such as the United States, Germany and South Africa, where citizen engagement has been discussed for a long time, a situation that is still not fully understood in emerging democracies such as Kenya Rwanda and Uganda.

Developed economies like the USA, German, United Kingdom and Spain are far much ahead in Information Communication Technology (ICT) compared to the less developed countries like Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. This makes easier for the developed economies to relay information to its citizenry faster and efficiently compared to the less developed economies. Public data is easily passed to the citizens through modern ways of communication like the internet and whistle blowing against corruption can be communicated swiftly (Castells, 2012).

Previous studies on public participation were not conducted in the context of development projects in the county of Makeni. This study therefore seeks to identify factors affecting public participation in Makeni County.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The chapter describes the analysis approach in a variety of subsections. Subsections have a particular order and shall include: research design, sample location, target population, sample size and techniques, data collection methods, research methodology, reliability and validity, organizational variable description, data analysis processes and ethics.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

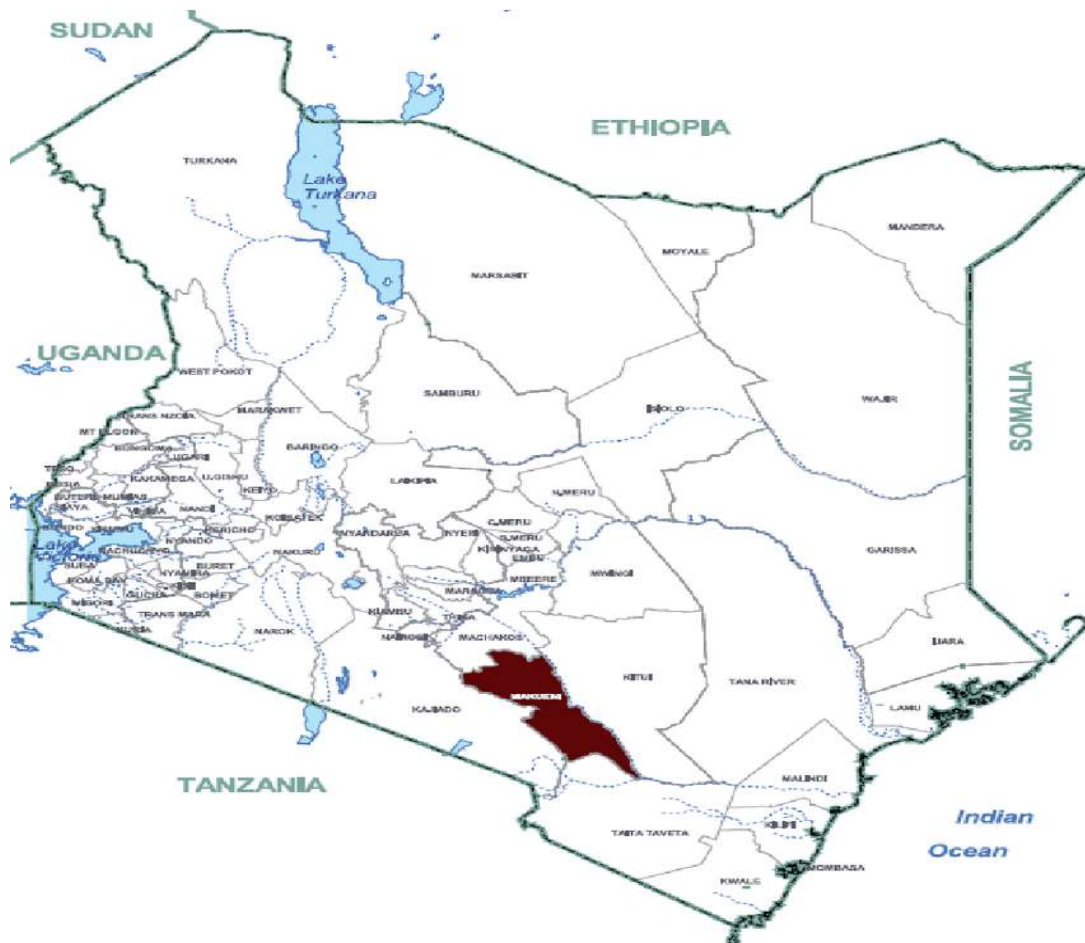
A research design gives structure to a research and shows how all major research components such as, samples/groups, programs, measures and assignment methods work together in addressal of the focal research questions. Research design is critical because it avails a conceptual framework on which data collection/analysis can be done in a manner that adds value to the purpose of the research (Orodho, 2005). Research design was used to integrate the whole study to create coherence and meaning.

This study was descriptive in design because it gives either a qualitative or a quantitative or both characteristics of the group or case under study. This research design was considered because it compares the characteristics of the two different groups: county administrators and the local residents used in this study. A survey of descriptive research design describes the state of things (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003) and also is also useful as it describes values, behavior, and characteristics. It also provides a means to observe and collect data in populations that are too large for direct observation thus good for generalization purposes (Cooper, 2011). Data was gathered on the basis of one shot to ensure efficiency and to cut down on costs. The research design fits well with questionnaire, which the research study employed in data collection (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

#### **3.3 Location of the Study**

The study was conducted in Makueni County within Wote/Nziu ward. Makueni County is situated in the South Eastern part of Kenya. The county is largely arid and semi-arid

and prone to frequent droughts. The county has six sub counties with thirty electoral wards which are further subdivided into sixty sub wards. The county has a total population of 1,002,979 comprising of 488,378 males and 514,601 females. The youth (18 -35 years) account for almost 24% of the total population (Makueni CIDP, 2018-2022). Wote/Nziu ward is home to 14,283 adults above the ages of 18 years (IEBC, 2021). This ward is best suited for the research because it is composed of both rural and urban set ups and thus allowable for generalization of both categories.



### 3.4 Target Population

A population is a complete batch of individuals, objects or cases with similar observable traits (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). It is a sum total of elements on which the study aims

to make inferences (Cooper & Schindler, 2011). The target population for the study is 14,283 residents in the Wote/Nziu ward.

### 3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

This section gives a description of sample size and procedures used in sampling the target population. The study will apply the Yemane (1967) formula to compute a sample of 100 respondents who were divided into Eighty-five members of the public from Wote/Nziu ward of Makueni County and 15 county officials from different Devolution ,Water and Sanitation and Health departments of Makueni County who are in charge of projects within Wote/Nziu ward.

#### 3.5.1 Sample Size

This study applied the Yamene (1067) formula in computation of the sample of 100 respondents using a Precision (e) of 10 percent (see appendix 6). Sample size comprised of 15 Key Informants who included 5 Makueni County officers from Devolution, County Administration, Public Service and Youth, 5 County officers from the Water and Sanitation Department, 5 County Officers from Health Department. Random selection also involves 85 households was conducted to ensure that 35 women, 30 men and 20 youths participate in the study.

**Table 3.1: Sample Size**

<b>Research Study Participants</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Key Informants	15
Households	85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: (Makueni County Government, 2022)*

### 3.6 Data Collection Instruments

This study collected primary data using a questionnaire and key informant interviews. Questionnaires were administered to 85 residents in the ward while key informant interviews were used to collect data from the county administration staff.

### **3.6.1 Key Informant Interviews**

Interviews are used the targeted population is small and can provide more insightful data that would otherwise be constrained through a questionnaire. Interviews provide the respondents with an opportunity to answer the questions freely without constraints. This method is appropriate for this study because this particular approach gave the researcher an opportunity to explore and uncover different societal patterns of behavior and cultural beliefs that shape the society. The key informant interviews were designed to collect background information on the respondents before delving into the effects of demographic factors, socio-economic factors and public participation. The Key informants comprised of county officers who maintained that public participation has been key in ensuring project sustainability in the area.

### **3.6.2 Questionnaire**

The questionnaires are the most useful tool especially if the number of respondents is large because the information is derived quickly and in a short time. The structured questions are used to obtain relevant responses. The questionnaire was constructed using open and closed ended questions. The closed ended questionnaires were accompanied by all possible alternatives in a list from which respondents tick appropriately according to the option that best matches their situation. The questionnaire collected information regarding the respondent's bio data in section A, demographic characteristics of the participants in relation to public participation in section B, socio-economic factors of the participants in relation to public participation, political factors in section C, and extent of public participation in section D.

### **3.7 Validity of Research Instruments**

Validity is the degree to which findings or results from data analysis accurately represents the phenomenon under study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). To achieve validity the researcher sought advice and guidance from the supervisors/experts on different questionnaire parts. To reiterate the questionnaire was the main data collection instrument. To accommodate recommendations, all necessary adjustments were made before data collection began.

### **3.8 Reliability of Research Instruments**

Reliability in this case is the level/degree to which research instruments are able to give consistent results in reference to the initial results obtained after the same trial is repeated severally. In this study data reliability was tested on the questionnaire using the pilot test technique. A pilot study consisting ten (10) respondents that were not highlighted in the original sample was randomly selected from the reachable population and used to pilot-test the questionnaire before administration. A cronbach Alpha threshold of 70% was achieved before the final data collection was carried out using the edited questionnaire.

### **3.9 Data Analysis**

Data analysis was done in both quantitative and qualitative terms. Under the latter approach, common themes in study responses were assessed. Under quantitative terms, numeric data was summarized and expounded using descriptive statistical methods like percentages and frequencies. Variable(s) proportion and frequency was determined using descriptive analysis. The results are illustrated in tables and graphs. Data processing was done to reduce large amounts of data to a manageable size using the SPSS software. Furthermore, inferential statistics were used to establish the impact of socio-economic factors, political factors and demographic characteristics of the participants on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. Pearson correlation and regression analysis were done to determine the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. Correlation was used to examine the strength of the relationship. Regression analysis was also conducted to assess the prediction capabilities of the independent variables on the dependent one. This type of regression examines the relationship amidst a batch of predictor variables on a ratio/interval criterion variable. The study applied the regression equation below;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

Where;

Y = Public participation

$\beta_0$  = Coefficients of determinants

$X_1$  = Demographic factors

$X_2$  = socio-economic factors

$X_3$  = Political factors

$\epsilon$  = error Terms

The data are presented in frequency tables as means, frequencies, variances and correlational analysis to examine the relationships between variables in the study. The results of the data analysis are then illustrated in tabular form and figures.

### **3.10 Ethical Consideration**

Data collection was keenly done with adherence to several ethical issues including approval by the research panelists from the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). The researcher carried along an introduction letter from SEKU confirming that the study was purely academic. Research license was also obtained from National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI). Study participants got an in-depth verbal explanation of the intentions behind the request to them to participate and express consent was obtained from them before undertaking the interviews and administering the questionnaires. Participants of the study were volunteers, that is, no duress or coercion was used. Confidentiality and privacy of the individual identities was also highly regarded. Raw data was only accessible to the principal researcher and the field assistants. Protection from psychological harm of respondents was also considered during the collection of data. To avoid inconveniencing the respondent(s), punctuality was observed on the part of the researcher.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to assess the factors affecting participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. The study was guided by the following objectives; to establish the impact of socioeconomic factors on participation of the public in development projects, to assess the role of political factors on public participation in development projects and establish the impact of demographic characteristics of the participants on participation of the public in developmental projects of Wote/Nziu ward. The analysis was based on findings from the three research objectives.

#### 4.2 Questionnaires Return Rate

According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), questionnaire return rate refers to the number of respondents who returned usable instruments for the study out of the total number contacted for study. The sample size for this study was 85 respondents. The results of questionnaire return rate were as presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Questionnaires Return Rate**

Categories	Frequencies	Percentage
Retuned	85	100.00
Not returned	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The questionnaires return rate as presented in Table 4.1 was 100%. This became possible because the researcher personally took the questionnaires to the sampled respondents and a time frame of two weeks was given to fill the questionnaires. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) observe that a 50 percent response rate is adequate for analysis and reporting. A response rate of 60 percent is good and a response rate of 70 percent and over is very good. The response rate for this study was therefore very good since it was over 70 percent. This would provide the required information for purposes of data analysis hence this could enhance sample representation and meaningful generalization.



### 4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study. They include; gender, age, education qualifications, household size, employment status and monthly earnings.

#### 4.3.1 Age Distribution of Respondents

The respondents were requested to indicate their age. The age characteristic is likely to show the physical maturity rate of the respondents. The results are shown in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18 – 25	17	20
26-35	34	40
36-45	18	21.1
46 - 55	16	18.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.2 indicates that, there were more respondents the respondents, 34 (40%) respondents aged between 26-35 years as opposed to other age brackets. This shows that the respondents were young but mature enough to respond to the study questions.

#### 4.3.2 Gender of Respondents

The respondents were requested to indicate their gender. This was done with the object of establishing the level of fairness in terms of gender engagement. The results were presented in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Gender of Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	39	46.00
Female	46	54.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 4.3 indicates that although the majority of respondents identified by 46 (54%) were female, there was good representation of males at 39 (46 %). This suggests that information was gathered from both male and female respondents

#### **4.3.3 Respondents' Academic Qualification.**

Academic qualification of the respondents determines the professional development of a respondent. The respondents were required to indicate their highest academic qualification. The results were as presented in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Academic qualification of respondents**

<b>Academic level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Diploma	40	47.1
Degree	14	16.6
Post graduate	3	3.5
Primary	5	5.9
Secondary school	23	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.4 indicates that majority of the respondents had diploma education as their highest level of education shown by 40 (47%). This was followed by those with highest level of Education as shown by 23 (27.0%) of the respondents. From the findings, it is clear that the respondents had at least acquired basic education and could respond to the research instruments on their own.

#### 4.3.4 Household Size

The study then sought to establish respondents' household size. The frequencies and percentages were computed to illustrate the distribution. The findings from the analysis were as presented in Table 4.5

**Table 4.5: Household size**

<b>Household size</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 6	43	50.6
6-10	29	34.1
11-15	13	15.3
More than 15	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.5 indicates that majority 43 (50.6%) respondents had household size of below six, 29 (34%) had household of 6-10, while 13 (15%) had between 11-15. This indicates that majority of the households comprise at most 10 people. This has a great impact on household expenditure.

#### 4.3.5 Respondent's Employment Status

The research sought to establish the respondent's employment status. In order to accomplish this task respondents were asked to state their employment status. The responses of respondents were as shown in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Respondent's Employment Status**

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Employed	26	30.6
Self employed	29	34.1
Unemployed	30	35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.6 indicate that 30 (35.3%) who represented the majority were unemployed while 29 (34.1%) were self-employed. This implies that the study involved everyone in the community irrespective of their employment status.

#### 4.3.6 Respondents' Monthly Income

The research sought to establish the respondents' monthly income. In order to accomplish this task respondents were asked to state their monthly earnings. The responses were as shown in table 4.7.

**Table 4.7: Respondent Monthly Income**

<b>Amount in KES</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 25,000	60	70.6
25,001-50,000	19	22.4
50,001-100,000	3	3.5
More than 100,001	3	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

From Table 4.7, majority of the respondents represented by 60 (70.6%) were earning less than Kshs. 25,000, 19 (22.4 5%) earned between Kshs.25, 001-50,000. 3 (3.5%) earned between Kshs. 50,001- 100,000 and above Kshs.100, 000. It was therefore concluded that majority of the respondents were low-income earners.

#### 4.4 Socio-economic Factors and Public Participation

The first objective for this study was to establish the impact of socio-economic factors on participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. To achieve this objective, the respondents were requested to give their opinion on the impact of socioeconomic factors on participation of the public in development projects using a 5-Likert scale as; SA for Strongly Agree, A for Agree, N for Neutral, D for Disagree and SD Strongly Disagree. The results were presented in Table 4.8.

**Table 4.8: Socio-Economic Factors and Public Participation**

<b>No</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>
1	The county government has set clear guidelines and procedures for public participation for both the literate and the illiterate people in the community	12 14.1	30 35.3	8 9.4	20 23.5	15 17.6	<b>85</b>	4.483	0.593
2	The county government ensures that there is representation of the civil society in development projects	49 57.6	23 27.1	4 4.7	4 4.7	5 5.9	<b>85</b>	4.103	0.624
3	Both the poor and rich are given same opportunities when it comes to public hearings and participation	39 45.9	21 24.7	15 17.6	5 5.9	5 5.9	<b>85</b>	3.310	0.846
4	There is usually a formal way of creating public awareness prior to the public participation	34 40.0	20 23.5	10 11.8	10 11.8	16 18.8	<b>85</b>	3.417	0.917
5	The county government embraces clear and well-defined information regarding public participation	32 37.6	25 29.4	14 16.5	10 11.8	4 4.7	<b>85</b>	3.827	0.675
6	The County government of Makueni has created effective visual information to assist the participants in understanding the project development	51 60.0	14 16.5	6 7.1	7 8.2	7 8.5	<b>85</b>	4.083	0.593

Table 4.8 show that the respondents were in agreement with the statements that, the county government has set clear guidelines and procedures for public participation for both the literate and the illiterate people in the community (Mean=4.483, STD=0.593), the county government ensures that there is representation of the civil society in development projects (Mean=4.103, STD=0.624), the County government of Makueni has created effective visual information to assist the participants in understanding the project development (Mean=4.083, STD=0.593), and that the county government embraces clear and well-defined information regarding public participation (Mean=3.827, STD=0.675). The respondents were also neutral on the statements, there is usually a formal way of creating public awareness prior to the public participation (Mean=3.417, STD=0.917) and that both the poor and rich are given same opportunities when it comes to public hearings and participation (Mean=3.310, STD=0.846). The findings non-discrimination with regards to participation of the rich and the poor in public participation is a clear indication that that Wote/Nziu ward promotes fairness during public participation without considering one's socio-economic status.

A review of the Focus Group Discussion feedback shows that the public noted the lack of information in relation to forums where they were invited to attend. They complained that they were not facilitated to enable them reach the meeting place to air their views. For those who managed to attend, they were not accorded adequate time to air their views. The sessions were more rushed like they had a predetermined outcome.

For instance, one female participant of the focus group discussion aged 38, at Kiti Kyumu Dispensary reported that, "the level of public awareness, presence and activity of civil society groups in the area of study and economic activities practiced by the residents of the area determined the level of community members' participation in the public participation activities." One man aged 37 at Kwa Kamuya Water Project in the focus group discussion reported that, "Areas with more educated residents enjoyed higher public participation levels compared to other regions with relatively smaller proportions of highly educated people". He went ahead and said that families with stable sources of finances are more likely to attend public participation forums because the county

government does not offer transport facilitation and allowances for the community members. He argued that, “It is not easy for someone to abandon his daily chores which earn his daily earnings to attend a public participation meeting which is never paid for. This kind of work only calls for self-sacrifice. “Another male participant aged 48 argued that the budget allocations for most projects are inadequate to carry out any meaningful and useful projects. There is need to increase the monies for the county projects to ensure that works are completed efficiently to realize real development. He went ahead and said that, “Payment of the project management committees is usually delayed and a good number of us are not employed and rely on their agricultural produce to make a living. The project management Committee are usually paid when the contractors are being paid and this forces us to use our hardly earned money.”

During a Focus Group Discussion at Kobai /Nziu road the chairman who is 42 years old maintained that, “Public participation is usually open for all the residents to attend and equal opportunity is given to all to give their views regarding the county government projects”. A female participant aged 37 at Kiti Kyumu dispensary said that the youth are always allowed to attend public participation forums but it appears like they are not motivated to do so. Public participation meetings have even been conducted in secondary schools but the youths turn out is usually low. She went ahead and argued that, “Gender roles are a major bottleneck to public participation because women are heavily burdened with responsibilities at the family levels and rarely get time to go for public participation. A good number of families in this area rely on women to do all the domestic chores and even financially because most of the men have moved to the towns in search for employment. The participant however maintained that marital status of the individual does not affect public participation in any way.

According to one female key informant aged 31 at Nguvuna drift within Wote/Nziu ward, “Some projects are usually changed without the involvement of the community at the county administration level hence rendering the public participation exercise irrelevant”. She went ahead and said that this is one of the major constraint as to why most of the young people in this particular area show little interest in the community projects because

they have a feeling that their views are not treated with utmost seriousness by the administrators. A male participant aged 52 at Kobai –Nziu road argued that, “some projects are usually pushed by the politicians themselves in order to reward their electorates and sometimes even their relatives. In other cases the budget of the given project are changed without the involvement of the community.’”

The interviewees further maintained that more literate members from the community stood better chances of securing an opportunity to air their perspectives compared to less learned individuals. A case for professional engineers and quantity surveyors was given as they had better understanding of dynamics in the global world. The interviewees further complained of delays in payments for PMCs to the time when contractors were being paid after project completion. This de-motivated local community members from taking part in the forums organized.

The interviewee further indicated that they did not take part in PMCs where they could oversight and approve projects undertaken because contractors were allowed to bribe their way into silencing critics. This created culture of fear among the local community members. Interviewees further noted that there was delayed passing of information on public participation dates where in some instances, they were alerted in the evening and the public participation meeting was to happen the next day. This meant that they could not plan to attend as their diaries were already taken up. It was also noted that at times, little monies were allocated for the project leading to incomplete works or delays in the scheduled date of completion leading to interruption to the way locals go about their duties.

The County fosters gender equity in public participation thus, creating room for all citizens to be heard. The researcher further sought to establish the association between socio-economic factors and public participation in development projects using multiple regression analysis as presented in Table 4.9.



**Table 4.9: Multiple Regression Coefficients**

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized		
		Coefficients		Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	1.161	.408		2.842	.001
	Public awareness (X <sub>1</sub> )	1.136	.339	1.655	3.346	.002
	Civil society Effect (X <sub>2</sub> )	.623	.391	.218	1.593	.000
	Economic factors(X <sub>3</sub> )	.027	.139	.061	.193	.000

a Dependent Variable: public participation in development projects

Table 4.9 shows that all the Indicator variables for socio-economic factors (Public awareness, Civil society Effect and Economic factors.) significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) predict the change in public participation in development projects. The regression model is;

$$Y = 1.161 + 1.36X_1 + 0.623X_2 + 0.027X_3$$

This model shows that the Public awareness have the greatest contribution to the model ( $\beta = 1.136$ ). This means that a unit change in Public awareness would cause a change in public participation in development projects by a factor of 1.36 at 5% significant level. It was also established that all the factors had a significant contribution to public participation in development projects ( $P < 0.05$ ).

#### **4.5 Political Factors and Public Participation in Development Projects**

The second objective for this study was to assess the role of political factors on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. To achieve this objective, the respondents were requested to give their opinion on the statements in Table 4.5, on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. The results are presented in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10: Political Factors and public Participation in Development Projects**

No	Statements	SD F %	D F %	N F %	A F %	SA F %	Total	Mean	Std
1	Party affiliations have a great Effect on the public participation activities within the county	9 10.6	10 11.8	3 3.5	20 23.5	43 50.1	<b>85</b> <b>100</b>	4.400	0.418
2	Political inclination plays a big role in public participation in county development projects	10 11.8	11 12.9	5 5.9	18 21.2	41 48.2	<b>85</b> <b>100</b>	2.778	1.093
3	Political interferences such as who gets the tender render local authorities programmes and activities dysfunctional	5 5.9	10 11.8	8 9.4	17 20.0	45 52.9	<b>85</b> <b>00.0</b>	2.444	0.882
4	Elected leaders are knowledgeable and competent enough to deal with public demands /service delivery	39 45.9	21 24.7	18 21.2	2 2.4	5 5.9	<b>85</b> <b>100.0</b>	3.400	0.866
5	Declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in Wote/Nziu ward	4 4.7	4 4.7	18 21.2	24 28.2	35 41.2	<b>85</b> <b>100.0</b>	4.333	0.866
6	There is enough transparency (People are well informed) regarding the amount of funds used in any given development project	50 58.8	10 11.8	5 5.9	10 11.8	10 11.8	<b>85</b> <b>100.0</b>	3.411	1.054
7	Development projects are decided by the local people from the grass root level and not imposed by the county authorities in Wote/Nziu ward	47 55.3	22 25.9	8 8.4	3 3.5	5 5.9	<b>85</b> <b>100.0</b>	4.667	0.500

The results in table 4.10 reveal that the respondents were in strong agreement on the statements party affiliations have a great Effect on the public participation activities within the county (Mean=4.667, STD=0.500). The respondents also agreed with the statements, Political inclination plays a big role in public participation in county development projects (Mean=4.400, STD=0.740) and that there is enough transparency (people are well informed) regarding the amount of funds used in any given development project (Mean=4.333, STD=0.418). The respondents remained neutral on the statements, development projects are decided by the local people from the grass root level and not imposed by the county authorities in Wote/Nziu ward (Mean=3.411, STD=1.054), declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in Wote/Nziu ward (Mean=3.400, STD=0.866), and that political interferences render local authorities programs and activities dysfunctional (Mean=2.778, STD=1.093). The respondents disagreed with the statement elected leaders are knowledgeable and competent enough to deal with public demands /service delivery (Mean=2.444, STD=0.882). The findings on political interferences, declining level of trust with politicians, development projects being decided by leaders demonstrated mixed reactions by the respondents as illustrated by the high standard deviations. This therefore implies that despite party affiliations, transparency by the county government, and political inclination greatly influencing public participation, political interference, and elected leaders' knowledge and competency dealing with public demand elicited mixed reactions.

**Table 4.11: Correlation between political factors Effect Public participation**

		<b>Political factors</b>	<b>Public participation</b>
<b>Political factors</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.728(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	85	85
<b>Public participation</b>	Pearson Correlation	.728(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	85	85

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From Table 4.11, the correlation result for the study model shows that the political factors had a strong positive correlation ( $r=0.728$ ,  $P<0.05$ ) with public participation in Wote/Nziu ward.

A review of FGDs indicated that political rivalry witnessed in public participation forums made it difficult for some individuals to air their views. In fact people who are opposed to the current regime are forced to stay away from the PCMs and in case they attend, their intention is to oppose the ideas even when they bear good intentions for the community. This has always been a key factor hindering open public participation in development projects with the Ward. Individuals aligned to the leaders seem to force their agendas on people.

Additionally, the interviewees noted that some projects are usually changed at the administration level which renders public participation irrelevant. Local members used to attend and give their views on development projects only for them to be trashed. Leaders habit of implementing projects that elevate them or bring them more popularity has made it difficult for the local community to attend and give views in public participation forums.

In other instances, county leaders have shown a tendency of rewarding areas where they got most votes irrespective of whether such areas have more projects compared to areas that did not support a given leader through voting patterns. The locals feel betrayed and used to rubber stamp ideas already decided on even if such ideas have no bearing to community development. Political inclinations greatly impact public participation. Concerns to do with political interests by elected leaders' conflict of interest. People likely to seek elective seats in the near future are very active in lobbying for resources in their areas of interest.

#### **4.6 Demographic Factors and Public Participation in development Projects**

The last objective for this study was to describe the impact of demographic factors on participation of the public in development projects. To achieve this objective, the respondents were requested to give their opinion on the statements in Table 4.11, on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. The results are presented in Table 4.12.

**Table 4.12: Demographic and Public Participation in Development Projects**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std</b>
	<b>F %</b>	<b>F %</b>	<b>F %</b>	<b>F %</b>	<b>F %</b>			
Women participants are given equal opportunity as men to give their views in public participation	7 8.2	10 11.8	15 17.6	20 23.5	33 38.8	<b>85</b>	4.245	0.497
Women feel demotivated and excluded from public participation forums/platforms	3 3.5	5 5.9	14 16.5	23 27.1	40 47.0	<b>85</b>	2.739	0.430
Youth feel demotivated and excluded from public participation forums/platforms	4 4.7	8 9.4	5 5.9	20 23.5	48 56.5	<b>85</b>	2.659	0.385
Women are allowed to take up top leadership positions in development committees	28 33.0	23 27.1	5 5.9	20 23.5	9 10.6	<b>85</b>	3.434	0.485
Youth are allowed to take up top leadership positions in development committees	48 56.5	23 27.1	3 3.5	6 7.1	5 5.9	<b>85</b>	3.653	0.427
The county government leadership is gender sensitive and committed to considering women and youth in decision making process	25 29.4	40 47.0	10 11.8	22.3	3 3.5	<b>85</b>	3.662	0.476
The public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting Affirmative action and is sensitive to gender issues	27 31.7	21 24.7	12 14.1	10 11.7	15 17.6	<b>85</b>	3.656	0.410
Single individuals are allowed to take up leadership positions in Public Participation committees	3 3.5	3 3.5	12 14.1	28 32.9	39 45.9	<b>85</b>	4.141	0.487
Divorced individuals are allowed to take up leadership positions in Public Participation committees	3 3.5	2	21 2.3	19 23.4	40 47.1	<b>85</b>	3.962	0.451
The county government is keen to engage all the stakeholders from the community and focus on building relationships between policy makers and other development partners	45 52.9	15 17.6	3 3.5	10 11.8	12 14.1	<b>85</b>	4.648	0.503
Makueni residents are allowed to attend public hearings to air their views on development projects	4 4.7	1 1.1	10 11.8	27 31.8	43 50.6	<b>85</b>	4.479	0.481

The findings in Table 4.12 show that, the respondents were in strong agreement that the county government is keen to engage all the stakeholders from the community and focus on building relationships between policy makers and other development partners (Mean=4. 648, STD=0. 503). They also agreed on the statement's women participants are given equal opportunity as men to give their views in public participation (Mean=4.245, STD=0.497) and that Makueni residents who are not locals are allowed to attend public hearings to air their views on development projects (Mean=4. 479, STD=0. 481).However, there was disagreement among the respondents that women and youth feel demotivated and excluded from public participation forums/platforms (Mean=2.739, STD= 0.731). The implication of the response is that Wote/Nziu ward in Makueni County is gender sensitive and does not discriminate citizens based on their demographic background.

A review of data collected through FGDs indicated that the youth were allowed to attend public participation forums of which they rarely did. The county had even organized for public participation in some secondary schools within this particular ward where locals could access with ease and air their views. Gender roles were major constraints to women participation in development projects. Women were so much occupied with domestic chores and this makes them to lack time to attend the pp.

There was also very little interest or no interest at all on the side of the youth because public participation did not appear to favor their interests. This made many youths to stay away from public participation meetings. Another factor included marital status of an individual which affected their participation in public meeting called by the leaders. Single people, separated and divorced all can give their views in development projects. The study sought to establish the level at which participants' income Effect public participation in development projects.

**Table 4.13: Participants ranking of level of income Effect public participation in development projects**

Which level of income Effect public participation	Frequency	Percentage
Low	43	51
Medium	38	45
High	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>

The findings in table 4.13 show that income had lower Effect on development projects as demonstrated by 43 (51%) respondents, followed by 38 respondents who indicated it had medium Effect and finally only 4 (4%) indicated that income had high Effect on development projects. The findings imply that public participation on development projects is less affected by the income of the citizens.

**Table 4.14: Correlation between Socio-economic Factors and Public Participation**

		Public Participation	Socio-economic Factors
<b>Public Participation</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.624 (**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	85	85
<b>Socio-economic Factors</b>	Pearson Correlation	.624 (**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	85	85

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From the correlation result for the study model in Table 4.14, socio-economic factors had a strong positive correlation ( $r=0.624$ ,  $\alpha<0.01$ ) with public participation in Wote/Nziu ward.



#### 4.7 Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was done to establish the association between public participation and independent variables (demographic, political and socio-economic factors).

**Table 4.15: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.809	0.655	0.632	0.160

Table 4.15 is a model fit which establishes how fit the model equation is fitting the data. The adjusted  $R^2$  was used to show the predictive power of the study model and it was found to be 0.632 implying that 63.2% of the variations on public participation on development projects in Wote/Nziu ward are explained by demographic factors, Socio-economic factors, and political factors. This shows that there are other factors not captured in this research that impact public participation on development projects in Wote/Nziu ward.

**Table 4.16: ANOVA Results**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	3.041	4	0.760	31.282	0.000
1	Residual	1.604	66	0.024		
	Total	4.645	70			

From the ANOVA statistics in table 4.16, the probability value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicates that the regression model was significant in predicting how demographic factors, socio-economic factors, and political factors impacted public participation on development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. That is, there is a significant relationship between public participation on development projects and the independent variables (demographic factors, Socio-economic factors, and political factors).

**Table 4.17: Regression Coefficients**

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
1	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.672	0.516		3.240	0.002
Demographic factors	0.643	0.191	0.126	3.366	0.001
Socio-economic factors	0.503	0.123	0.146	3.276	0.002
Political factors	0.847	0.274	0.045	3.091	0.003

The established model for the study was:

$$Y = 1.672 + 0.403 X_1 + 0.847 X_2 + 0.643 X_3$$

The equation of regression above has shown that by incorporating all factors (demographic factors, socio-economic factors, and political factors) constant at zero public participation at Wote/Nziu ward was 1.672. The findings presented also show that taking all other independent variables at zero, a unit increase in the demographic factors would lead to a 0.643 increase in the scores of public participations at Wote/Nziu ward. The study further revealed that a unit increase in the scores of socio-economic factors would lead to a 0.503 increase in the scores of public participations at Wote/Nziu ward. Further, the findings shows that a unit increases in the scores of political factors would lead to a 0.847 increase in the scores of public participations at Wote/Nziu ward.

Overall, political factors had the greatest effect on the public participation at Wote/Nziu ward, followed by demographic factors while socio-economic factors had the least effect on public participation at Wote/Nziu ward. All the variables were significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) implying that the positive impact of the independent variables and dependent variable are not by chance.

#### **4.8 Interview Schedule Report**

Data for this study was also collected using interview schedule administered to 15 key informants comprised of county officers. It was reported that the factors that Effect individual public participation in development projects are; financial ability, education level and distance to the venue. In response to the question on social-economic factors and public participation on development projects, one of the interviewees said, “Only those who can afford their transport are able to attend public participation leaving out the poor”. This implies that that majority of the poor people rarely attend public participation meetings. It was also reported that, although public participation has been key in ensuring project sustainability in the area, only the educated people were participating in the meetings. One of the respondents said that, “highly educated people have a better chance to represent their communities in public participation”.

On political factors, it was reported that the political inclination of Affected those who were to be invited for the public participation. One of the respondents said, “People who are opposed to the current Government do not attend the public participation meetings”. It was also reported that those who are recognized the County Government are usually heard in the public participation.

On demographic characteristics, one of the respondents said, “Most women do not attend public participation because they are always occupied by their domestic responsibilities”. It was however reported that, both women and men are treated equally in public participation meetings.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the results, draws conclusions and makes recommendations based on the findings. The findings were base on the research questions in section 1.4.

#### **5.2 Discussion of Findings**

This section presents a discussion of the findings and how they relate with the existing literature.

##### **5.2.1 Effect of Socio-economic Factors on Public Participation**

The regression analysis in Table 4.9 revealed that socio-economic factors (Public awareness, civil society Effect and Economic factors) significantly predicted the change in public participation in development projects. The regression model from Table 4.9 shows that the public awareness had the greatest contribution in predicting the public participation in project development in Wote/Nziu ward. These findings agree with the Likert findings in Table 4.8, which established that county government has set clear guidelines and procedures for public participation for both the literate and the non literate people in the community. It was also found that the county government ensures that there is representation of the civil society in development projects. According to Mboga (2009), lack of education/illiteracy is an impediment to people from participating in development forums especially in towns where the participants are not allowed to speak in their local language. The County government's recognition of the non-literate people at the grassroots level bridges the gap of the literate and illiterate individuals during public participation.

The study found that the County government of Makueni has created effective visual information to assist the participants in understanding the project development. Based on the current generation where information sharing using social media is the norm, the study established that the county government uses online communication channels to reach the youth who form the majority part of the population. These is in tandem with

Dee (2016) who posits that citizens must be personally engaged and have access to information in order to engage effectively in matters of public policy. This ensures that they must not only be aware of their rights and obligations, but also know the channels by which they air their views on their own development concerns. Regarding limited public participation from the upper-class residents, Oakley (2013) argues that the higher the income levels the higher the chances of participation in community projects. Hence, a house hold with low-income levels is strongly believed to have low participation in terms of monetary contribution. On the contrary, however, Rishi (2013) holds that the wealthy elite of society also form relationships with political officials and manipulate their positions to ensure reciprocal gains. The dynamics of public participation in Makueni County are in consonance with the observations of Rishi.

From the interview schedule, it was reported that the factors that Effect individual public participation in development projects are; financial ability, education level and distance to the venue. It was also reported that only those who can afford their transport are able to attend public participation leaving out the poor and that only the educated people were participating in the development meetings.

### **5.2.2 Political Factors affecting Public Participation in Development Projects**

Politics is a factor in nearly all aspects of development including the extent to which community is involved in decision making processes on matters that affect it collectively and individually. This study found in Table 4.11 that politics have a strong positive impact on public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. The study revealed that party affiliation and political inclination plays a big role in public participation in county development projects (Table 4.8). Decreased levels of community satisfaction in lawmakers have also been shown to discourage community engagement in Wote/Nziu ward and that political interference such as who gets the tender render local authorities' programmes and activities dysfunctional. However, elected leaders' knowledge and competence was found not to be sufficient to manage development projects. This, therefore, implies that despite party affiliations, transparency by the county government and political inclination greatly Effects public participation in

planning, initiation, and implementation of development projects. These findings corroborate assertion by Jibrin (2005) that elected leaders tend to discriminate against those who did not vote for them or those who have different ideologies with regard to development such that only those who agree with the political leaders are the ones whose views are likely to be acted upon. Megumi (2017) also shared the same sentiments that some politicians transport and even hire their supporters to the public forums so that they can force their wishes to the people who are considered the minority or the weak.

From the interview schedule, it was also reported that the political inclination of individuals affected those who were to be invited for the public participation. It was also reported that people who are opposed to the current Government do not attend the public participation meetings and that those who are recognized by the County Government are usually heard in the public participation.

### **5.2.3 Demographic Factors affecting Public Participation in Development Projects**

In Table 4.14 the study established that, there was a positive relationship between demographic factors ( $r=0.747$ ,  $\alpha<0.01$ ) and public participation in Wote/Nziu ward. The study revealed that the county government is keen to engage all the stakeholders from the community and focus on building relationships between policy makers and other development partners, youths, people with disabilities and the elderly. These are given equal opportunity to give their views in public meetings. The study established in Table 4.13 that, public participation is open to all residents of Wote/Nziu Ward, Makueni County irrespective of their marital status or being locals or not. It was found that social problems facing the community were being solved through affirmative action and is sensitive to gender issues. The implication of these findings is that Wote/ Nziu Ward and by extension Makueni County is gender sensitive and does not discriminate the residents based on their demographic background. The County fosters gender equity in public participation thus creating social space for citizens to be heard. The findings resonate with Agbalajobi's (2010) argument that gender mainstreaming and participatory processes are a crucial factor in all development agendas.

From the interview schedule results, it was reported most women do not attend public participation because they are always occupied by their domestic responsibilities. It was however reported that, both women and men are treated equally in public participation meetings

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents conclusions and recommendations of the study. Suggestions for further studies are made toward the end of the chapter.

#### **6.2 Conclusion of the Study**

On Socio-economic Factors, the study concluded that economic factors like financial status affect public participation. The financial capability of an individual determines the level of public participation in development projects. Community members who can cater for their own transport costs are the only ones who attend the public participation forums. The poor are likely not to attend due to lack of facilitation.

The study further concludes that in view of promoting community awareness and participation in development projects, the incorporation of Information Communication Technology (ICT) is an innovative and powerful tool of encouraging public participation. This has however not been met adequately due to the low internet connectivity in Wote/Nziu ward and Makueni County at large.

From the study it was also deduced that education level determines the level of public participation. It was unanimously agreed that the educated people were more likely to participate in public participation forums because they have more insight to what is being discussed unlike the illiterate who hardly understand the technical language used during public participation.

Civil society influence played a major role in public participation in Wote/Nziu ward. The civil society has the ability to lobby and agitate for particular projects to be undertaken. Civil society groups are believed to represent the weak and the marginalized groups to advocate for their rights.



On Political Factors, the study concluded that Political inclinations and affiliations had the biggest influence in public participation in Wote Nziu ward. It was clearly noted that some projects are planned as political rewards in some areas that played key roles in the political campaigns of the sitting administration. This leads to unfair distribution of the county resources leaving some areas in apt poverty.

Political interferences were found also to be rampant within the area. Some projects end up being abandoned before they are completed. This is most caused by conflict of interest amongst some residents. Politicians have in most times favored their friends and relatives and lobby for them to get tenders failure to which they disrupt the implementation of certain projects if their wishes go unfulfilled. It was therefore concluded that political factors are an integral part of the development process of any society. However, politics Effect how people engage with projects, and the quality of public participation in development initiatives.

Elected members in this case the Members of County Assembly (MCAs) have little knowhow in certain areas. The electorate upholds a lot of trust in the elected members. Lack of knowledge and competence negatively affects the implementation of Development Projects. Cases have been witnessed whereby the elected members have openly differed with the executive in county projects making it impossible to execute such projects.

On demographic factors, the study revealed that the Makueni County Government engages all the community member regardless of their gender, marital status and age and the main focus is on building strong relationships between policy makers and other development partners. People with disabilities and the elderly are also highly regarded and treated with utmost importance just like the other people in the community. These are given equal opportunity to give their views in public meetings. In Wote/Nziu ward, public participation is open to all residents of that particular area. The study deduced that social problems facing the community were being solved through affirmative action and is sensitive to gender issues. The implication of these findings is that Wote/ Nziu Ward

and by extension Makueni County is gender sensitive and does not discriminate the residents based on their demographic background. The County fosters gender equity in public participation thus creating social space for citizens to be heard. From the interview schedule results, it was reported most women do not attend public participation because they are always occupied by their domestic responsibilities. It was however reported that, both women and men are treated equally in public participation meetings.

The study concludes that political inclinations and affiliations should not be used as avenues of rewarding the electorates. The County Government of Makueni should be strict with projects mapping to avoid duplication of projects in certain areas. Leaders should enhance good governance through transparency and accountability in their systems to build public trust and confidence. In this regard, there should be well-structured strategy to adequately involve all people in public participation. This will ensure there is equitable share of the county resources. Political interferences by the local politicians should be avoided at all costs by creating awareness to the public on what is entitled to them.

On demographic factors, Women and Youth should be empowered through education on creating income-generating activities to avoid being perceived as weak. They should be encouraged to startup businesses in Wote/Nziu ward. The area has a high potential in agriculture and the sector should attract the young generation into farming by incorporating the use modern technology.

The elderly and physically challenged should be included in leadership positions to tap their full potential and incorporate in the County Development agenda. Hearing and walking aids should be provided for the elderly and the people with disability.

### **6.3 Recommendations of the Study**

The study recommends that:

On Socio-economic factors, facilitation in form of transport, lunches and allowances be given to the community members of Wote /Nziu ward to avoid improve public turn up in

Public Participation forums. This will ensure that the people feel motivated to attend the meetings in large numbers to air their views.

The County Government of Makueni should ensure that improve and enhance the existing Information Communication Technology equipment. This will ensure that those have busy schedules can give their views online. It will also make communication faster and efficiently. Majority of the youth will be more motivated to give their views.

The County governance should put more emphasis on civic education on all citizens irrespective of their academic and economic status. The Project Management Committees should also be educated on their roles in Community projects and the dangers of engaging in corruption.

Civil societies should be fully incorporated in the public participation to give a voice to the weak minorities in Wote/Nziu ward. Their role should be embraced to ensure that there is fairness in service delivery to all the residents despite their political stand.

#### **6.4 Suggestions for Further Research**

The purpose of this study was to assess the factors affecting participation of the public in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. The study suggests that similar studies be conducted in other counties in Kenya to compare and generalize the findings. Further, it is recommended that a study be carried out on the role of public participation on projects' sustainability in rural settings across the country.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Main Questionnaire

#### Questionnaire for Public participation

My name is **Sylvia Nthenya Mwanzia**, a Master of Arts student in the department of Sociology Anthropology and Community Development of South Eastern Kenya University. I am conducting a research on “Factors influencing public participation in Development projects in Wote Ward, Makueni County”. I have chosen you as one of the informants to respond to a few questions that I am going to ask you. The information that you will share with me will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used only for the purposes of this study. Your participation in this study will is voluntary and there will be no monetary compensation. You can discontinue the interview at any time and there will be no penalties. I however, encourage you to participate in the entire interview.

Do you consent to this interview?

Yes [ ]                      No [ ]

#### **SECTION A: (Bio Data of the Respondent)**

##### **1. Age (years)**

18 -25                     

26 – 35                    

36 -45                     

46 -55                     

##### **2. Gender**

Female                    

Male                       

##### **3. Please indicate the highest level of your academic qualification.**

Primary                   

Secondary               

Diploma                  

Degree                   

Post graduate Degree  

Any other [Indicate].....

**4. Indicate the number people in your Households**

< 6 people

6-10 people

11 -15 people

>15 people

**5. Please indicate your employment status**

Employed

Unemployed

Self-employed

**6. Please indicate your monthly salary**

< 25,000

25,001-50,000

50,001-100,000

>100,001

**SECTION B:** This section seeks to find out the extent to which demographic characteristics of the participants Effect Public Participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward. Kindly respond to the following statement. Each statement is rated on a 5-point scale as; 1=SD: Strongly Disagree, 2=D: Disagree, 3=N: Neutral, 4=A: Agree and 5=SA: Strongly Agree.

No	Do demographic characteristics of the participants Effect public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward	SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Women participants are given equal opportunity as men to give their views in public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward					
2	Women and feel demotivated and excluded from public participation forums/platforms					
3	Youth are allowed to take up top leadership positions in development committees e.g. Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer					
4	The county government leadership is gender sensitive and committed to considering women and youth in decision making process					
5	There is equal gender representation at the local levels in public participation forums in all development projects					
6	The county government fully engage women and youth in needs assessment pertaining to development programmes /projects within the county					
7	The public takes initiative to solve social problems by adopting Affirmative action and is sensitive to gender issues					
8	Women are allowed to take up leadership positions in Public Participation committees					
9	The county government is keen to engage all the stakeholders from the community and focus on building relationships between policy makers and other development partners					
10	Makueni residents who are not natives are allowed to attend public hearings to air their views on development projects					

**SECTION C: This section seeks to find out the extent to which Social - economic factors Effect public participation in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward**

Kindly respond to the following statements. Each statement is rated on a 5-point scale as shown below. 1=SD: Strongly Disagree, 2=D: Disagree, 3=N: Neutral, 4=A: Agree and 5=SA: Strongly Agree

No	Do socio-economic factors Effect public participation in projects development in Wote/Nziu ward	SD	D	N	A	SA
1	The county government has set clear guidelines and procedures for public participation for both the literate and the illiterate people in the community					
2	The county government ensures that there is representation of the civil society in development projects					
3	Both the poor and rich are given same opportunities when it comes to public hearings and participation					
4	There is usually a formal way of creating public awareness prior to the public participation					
5	The county government embraces clear and well-defined information regarding public participation					
6	The County government of Makueni has created effective visual information to assist the participants in understanding the project development					

*This question seeks to assess the level of income Effects public participation*

NO	Does income levels Effect public	Low	Medium	High
7	Indicate your level of income (Please tick appropriately)			

**SECTION D: This section seeks to find out the extent to which Political Factors Effect Public Participation in Development Projects in Wote/Nziu ward. Kindly respond to the following statements. Each statement is rated on a 5-point scale as shown below;**

**1=SD: Strongly Disagree, 2=D: Disagree, 3=N: Neutral, 4=A: Agree and 5=SA: Strongly Agree**

No	Do political factors Effect public participation in development projects?	SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Party affiliations have a great Effect on the public participation activities within the county					
2	Political inclination plays a big role in public participation in county development projects					
3	Political interferences such as who gets the tender render local authorities programmes and activities dysfunctional					
4	Elected leaders are knowledgeable and competent enough to deal with public demands /service delivery					
5	Declining level of community trust with politicians has discouraged community participation in Wote/Nziu ward					
6	There is enough transparency (People are well informed) regarding the amount of funds used in any given development project					
7	Development projects are decided by the local people from the grass root level and not imposed by the county authorities in Wote/Nziu ward					

**SECTION E: This section seeks to find out the extent to which members of the public participate in Development Projects in Wote/Nziu ward. Kindly respond to the following statements. Each statement is rated on a 5 point scale as shown below; 1=SD: Strongly Disagree, 2=D: Disagree, 3=N: Neutral, 4=A: Agree and 5=SA: Strongly Agree**

No		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	Community leaders form part of the project development stakeholders					
2	Regular meeting with the ward representatives to discuss potential projects in the community					
3	Women, youth and elderly representation during County government development meetings					

To what extent do the members of the public take part in development projects in Wote/Nziu ward?.....  
 .....

**Thank you for your time!**



**Appendix 2: Key Informants (KI) in Wote/Nziu Ward**

**Interview Schedule on Public Participation**

My name is Sylvia Nthenya Mwanzia, a Master of Arts student in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Community Development, School of Education Humanities and Social Sciences of South Eastern Kenya University. I am doing a research on Factors influencing public participation in Development projects in Wote Ward, Makueni County. I have chosen you as one of the informants to respond to a few questions that I am going to ask you. The information that you will share with me will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used only for the purposes of this study. Your participation in this study will is voluntary and there will be no monetary compensation. You can discontinue the interview at any time and there will be no penalties. I however, encourage you to participate in the entire interview.

Do I have your permission to continue with the interview?

Yes [  ]

No [  ]

Department.....

Age.....

Gender.....

Years of service.....

1. Do you have a public participation policy in your department?

.....  
.....

2. Does your department involve the affected community in all its development projects?

.....  
.....

3. How is the community involved?

.....  
.....

4. In your own opinion is the local community involved in all the development projects undertaken in this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

5. What strategies /mechanisms do you use to incorporate the local people in projects initiation, planning and implementation?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. Are there factors which hinder public participation? Please list them

Yes [ ]                      No [ ]

.....  
.....  
.....

7. Which factors hinder public participation in this particular area? Please list them

.....  
.....  
.....

8. Please explain how each of the factors you mention above hinder public participation.

.....  
.....  
.....

9. To what extend do individual economic factors Effect development projects in Wote /Nziu Ward?

To a great extend      [ ]

To some extend        [ ]

Neutral                    [ ]

Little                      [ ]

Very little extend      [ ]

10. Do political inclinations have any impact on public participation in Wote Ward?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

11. If Yes, Please explain.

.....  
.....  
.....

12. Are issues of demographic characteristics taken into account in public participation forums?

Yes [ ]

No. [ ]

13. If yes, which ones (probe sex and age) and why are they taken into account

.....  
.....  
.....

14. How would you rate public participation in Wote/Nziu ward?

Very good [ ]

Good [ ]

Don't know [ ]

Bad [ ]

Very bad [ ]

15. Which challenges do you encounter in conducting public participation in Wote Ward?

.....  
.....  
.....

16. What changes do you recommend to improve public participation policy?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Thank you**



6. What are the activities performed by this PMC

.....  
.....  
.....

7. In your own understanding, what is public participation?

.....  
.....

8. How often are you involved in public participation forums in this area?

9. List factors that Effect individual public participation

.....  
.....

10. How does one's economic status affect his/her public participation?

.....  
.....  
.....

11. How does one's education level affect his/her public participation?

.....  
.....  
.....

12. How does one's political inclination or affiliation Affect his/her public participation in development projects in this particular area?

.....  
.....

13. How does one's gender Effect his/her public participation in development projects within this particular area?

.....  
.....

14. How does one's age Effect his/her public participation in development projects?

.....  
.....

15. How does one's marital status Effect his/her public participation in development projects His/her public participation in development projects? His/her public participation in development projects?

.....  
.....

16. According to your own experience, please explain what the role of public participation in development projects is.

.....  
.....

17. What challenges does public participation face?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Thank you for your time!**

## Appendix 3: University Approval Letter



**SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
**BOARD OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES**

**P.O. BOX 170-90200**  
**KITUI, KENYA**  
**Email: [info@seku.ac.ke](mailto:info@seku.ac.ke)**

**TEL. 020-4218859 (KITUI)**

**Email: [directorbps@seku.ac.ke](mailto:directorbps@seku.ac.ke)**

Our Ref: C408/WTE/20073/2017

DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Mwanzia Sylvia Nthenya  
Re g. No. C408/WTE/20073/2017  
Master of Arts in Sociology  
C/O Dean, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dear Makumi,

**RE: PERMISSION TO PROCEED FOR DATA COLLECTION**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Master of Arts in Sociology Proposal document titled: ***“Public Participation in Development Projects in Makueni County, Kenya: A Case Study of Wote Nziu Ward”***.

Following a successful presentation of your Masters Proposal, the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences in conjunction with the Directorate, Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS) have approved that you proceed on and carry out research data collection in accordance with your approved proposal.

During your research work, you will be closely supervised by Prof. Harrison Maithya and Prof. Jonathan Mwanja. You should ensure that you liaise with your supervisors at all times. In addition, you are required to fill in a Progress Report (*SEKU/ARSA/BPS/F-02*) which can be downloaded from the University Website.

The Board of Postgraduate Studies wishes you well and a successful research data collection exercise as a critical stage in your Master of Education in Educational Administration and Planning.

**Prof. David M. Malonza**  
**Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies**

Copy to: Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Students Affairs (Note on File)  
Dean, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences  
Chairman, Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology and Community Development  
Director, Wote Campus  
Prof. Harrison Maithya  
Prof. Jonathan Mwanja  
BPS Office - To file

ARID TO GREEN



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TRANSFORMING LIVES

## Appendix 4: National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Ref No: **104856** Date of Issue: **15/December/2020**

**RESEARCH LICENSE**



**This is to Certify that Ms. Sylvia Nthenya Mwanzia of South Eastern Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research in Makueni on the topic: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MAKUENI COUNTY, KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF WOTE NZIU WARD for the period ending : 15/December/2021.**

License No: **NACOSTI/P/20/8196**

**104856**  
Applicant Identification Number

  
Director General  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &  
INNOVATION**

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**Appendix 5: List of Development Projects in Wote/ Nziu Ward**

<b>Health projects</b>	<b>Water projects</b>	<b>Roads projects</b>
Bosnia dispensary	Kwa kamuya	kobai /nziu rd
Kiti kyumu dispensary	Kaiti intake	kivandini/Nziu rd
Kathuma dispensary	Makolongo water project	Nguvuna drift

**Appendix 6 Sample Size Computation Table**

Size of Population	Sample Size (n) for Precision (e) of:			
	±3%	±5%	±7%	±10%
500	a	222	145	83
600	a	240	152	86
700	a	255	158	88
800	a	267	163	89
900	a	277	166	90
1,000	a	286	169	91
2,000	714	333	185	95
3,000	811	353	191	97
4,000	870	364	194	98
5,000	909	370	196	98
6,000	938	375	197	98
7,000	959	378	198	99
8,000	976	381	199	99
9,000	989	383	200	99
10,000	1,000	385	200	99
15,000	1,034	390	201	99
20,000	1,053	392	204	100
25,000	1,064	394	204	100
50,000	1,087	397	204	100
100,000	1,099	398	204	100
>100,000	1,111	400	204	100

a = Assumption of normal population is poor (Yamane, 1967). The entire population should be sampled.