PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION POLICY IN KILIFI COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed influence of public engagement on development projects policy implementation in Kilifi County. The specific objectives included, to assess the effects of community awareness on development projects policy implementation, to find effects of capacity building development projects policy implementation and to assess effects of monitoring on development projects policy implementation. The study was linked to new public management and theory of social exchange. A descriptive design was used for this study. Target population of 100 respondents was used from Kilifi citizens involved in community decision making process. A sample size of 80 respondents was sampled from the population using stratified random sampling technique. Data collection was done through questionnaires, reliability testing and validity testing of questionnaire and pilot study done. Data analysis was done by inferential statistics using SPSS and results presented in tables, graphs, and charts. The study findings established that public engagement positively influenced development projects policy implementations. This was affirmed by the regression model analysis using coefficients of adjusted determination 0.715(71.5%) indicating the variation of dependent variable as explained by independent variables (community awareness, capacity building and monitoring). 28.5% residual was explained by other factors not included in this study. On analysis of variables P-value was 0.001<0.05 affirming that the study variable significantly influenced development projects policy implementation. It was therefore concluded that community awareness, capacity building and monitoring significantly influences development projects policy implementation. The study therefore recommended that Kilifi County Government should expand the level of public engagement to the grass roots and ensure that it is well understood for public confidence, support, and acceptance during development projects policy implementation.

Key Words: Community Awareness, Capacity Building, Monitoring

INTRODUCTION

In most successful countries around the world, governments engage the public on scope, content and intended impact of policy implementation before they are put into action (Diergarten and Krieger 2015; Gurin 2014). Public Engagement is conceived to be an interaction of citizens and governments in contributing to policy decisions in an open and accountable manner (Phillips and Orsini, 2002). According to Michels (2011) engagement of public is considered an important element to citizens in contributing to policy decision making in a democratic country. Engagement allows exchange of information between the government and community organizations in finding solutions for public problems (Lenihan, 2012). Foster-Fishman (2009) asserts that public engagement improves community norms which helps in connecting the community together to work collectively and develop confidence and transparent minds of willingness in devoting their time and energy in communal decisions. Through citizen engagement stakeholders forward their input affecting development initiatives and resource allocations in decisions making (Odhiambo and Taifa, 2009). Okello, Oenga and Chege (2008) noted that engagement in policy formulation, investment choices and policy designs are influenced by stakeholder in implementing community decisions.

Kenyan constitution 2010 noted principal guidelines of engaging the citizens in public affairs. Article 10 on the principles of good governance mandates public offices and public officers to engagement citizens whenever they enact and put any law into action. Article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya, mandates county governments to promote citizens engagement in decisions making (COK, 2010). LASDAP and CDF are the drivers of engagement in policy implementation at the local level. The CDF Act at county level aims at poverty reduction and requires engagement of communities on the development projects policy implementation by the mandated committees (Ministry of Local Government, 2009).

Consequently, implementing of policies requires putting in action the goals and objectives of a policy. A policy entails a statement outlining actions to be taken on future goals by an organization with means and techniques of achieving the policy goals (Stewart et al., 2008). Implementation is the actions taken towards achieving set goals of a policy (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1973). Simon (2010) notes that policy implementation is an administrative force by government in achieving the goals. Policies are content specific based on social -economic, organization and political factors influencing how well a project policy is put into action (Meter & Horn, 1975; Stewart et al. 2008), it also changes over a period depending on the policy (Goggin et al. 1990). Lipsky (1980), notes with discretion that policy implementors on the ground are important in implementing policies than top-down administration. Bottom-up approach is key in public policy implementation (Lipsky ,1980). The bottom-up method asserts that implementation is successful beginning from the lower levels moving upwards (Lipsky ,1980). A responsible government should ensure that communities are actively involved on policy choices that are available to the society (Graves, 1995). Rossi et al. (2004) noted that implementation of policies is not actioned as designed, most are politically compromised, with no room for citizens to participate in the implementation.

Kilifi County came into existence after promulgation of the 2010 constitution of Kenya which birthed the 47 counties. Kilifi county is at Norther part of Mombasa at 60 kilometers covering an area of 12,370.80 kilometers with a population of 1.45m (KNBS, 2019). It at the south of Mombasa and Kwale, North of Tana River and west of Taita Taveta. Kilifi County contains even sub- counties; Kilifi North, Kaloleni, Malindi, Kilifi south, Magarini, Rabai Kaloleni, Ganze. The main economic activities are agriculture, dairy, and beef farming (County Government of Kilifi-CIDP 2018-2022 Vol.1). Food

insecurity and poverty facing many communities with no source of income have engaged economic activities that generate income to meet their basic needs. In a survey Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2013) listed Kilifi as the poorest counties with income disparity. According to Juma (2019) in an article on the face of poverty in Kilifi noted that, due to unpredictable rainfall patterns, Kilifi county-initiated establishment of small holder irrigation schemes at Mdachi, Zia ra wari, Uhai Marikano, Mangudho, Burangi, Kakuyuni irrigation cluster to stem the food insecurity in 2014, to date they are still incomplete, a little public engagement could have helped in implementation. The establishment of the irrigation projects provided a ray of hope to farmers around the county development projects which did not see the light of the day (Juma, 2019). This has fueled the researcher to examine the effects of public engagement on development projects implementation policy in Kilifi County.

Problem of the Statement

Public engagement is key in promoting effectiveness, accountability, and openness in service delivery in governance. Absence of effective monitoring, capacity building and community awareness fundamentally undermines projects policy implementation in local governance in Kenya. The shortfall to effectively involve citizen in development project policy implementation leads to, unmaintained structures, improper planning, and inadequate resources in counties to guide in the public engagement (Okello et al, 2008). Even though Kilifi county has been successful in implementing many developments projects policies evidence shows that some projects policies are still at initial stages since 2013 among others are rehabilitation of Bamba cattle dip, construction of vaccination crushes at 1% complete and construction of a water pan in Ganze at 10% complete (Kilifi project achievement report FY2013/2015).

Studies related to public engagement has been conducted globally, (Mellissa and Valentina, 2016) in a study on citizen engagement in rulemaking which sought to link public engagement to rulemaking within South Asia, Middle East, and North African counties. Data showed that communities can actively be engaged in decision making processes in countries with advanced economies than non-economic countries (Mellissa and Valentina, 2016). Similar studies were done in Africa on Citizen involvement in public policy making, which concluded that policies succeed under active involvement of citizens in policy implementation (Molokwane and Lukamba, 2018).

In Kenya, Ntombura (2019) examined the effects of public involvement while implementing policies in Elgeio County, results showed that existence of competition among stakeholders' mistrust and poor management prohibits proper policy implementation. Despite these empirical evidences of studies linked to public engagement, none of these studies have emanated from county of Kilifi, this being a gap on empirical literature on public engagement and development project policy implementation in Kilifi county. Therefore, the study aimed at bridging the empirical literature gap by assessing the influence of public engagement on development project policy implementation in Kilifi County.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to examine the effects of public engagement on development project policy implementation Kilifi County. The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- To assess the effects of community awareness on development projects policy implementation in Kilifi County.
- To determine the effects of capacity building on development projects policy implementation in Kilifi County.
- To establish the effects of monitoring on development projects policy implementation in Kilifi County.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Review

Communities are unable to take part in implementation programs because they have no clue on engagement interventions on the implementation strategies (Gitegi & Iravo, 2016). The saying "information is power" is vital in communities with uneducated and dominated by traditional mindsets. Awareness helps in dealing with community traditions, social cultural information exchange and sharing (Dayal, 2000). According to (Omolo, 2010) Information in rural Kenya has been made on program polices by the government in an understandable and timely manner.

Smith and McDonough, (2001), notes that public awareness supports governments in gathering ideas for policy solutions. Effectiveness in acquiring and sharing information in one on one for both groups and individuals in communities (OECD, 2009). World Bank (2015), notes that citizen involvement in implementation is promoted through educating the local communities and reach out to the communities, face to face communication, developing knowledge and skills of institutions and widely engaging communal activities.

Community awareness through sensitization improves engagement at grass roots and enables the community develop interest, skills, and understanding in policy implementation cycle (Mosse, 2001). Policies founded on citizen awareness are easily implemented and cheaper in cost as the community is fully involved and made aware before implementation (Thomas 1995, Vroom and Jago 1988).

Capacity building intends to build skills and knowledge of people in a community, develop shared decisions and visions for future development in organizations within a community (Aspen Institute, 2006). Efforts to build capacities of local communities requires improvement on shared purpose, togetherness, increase community capacity and provision of adequate resources and mentorship (Saegert, 2005). The Aspen Institute

(2006), shares goals that lead to improved citizens capacity building which include Community involvement, traits in leadership, resource allocation, common visions and mission, and common goals. Citizen's capacity is gained from individual skills, capability of institutions and communication networking (Chaskin, 2001).

According to (Francisco et al.,2001), community building to promote implementation is increase by technology which captures community requirements, resource mobilizations, developing projects, training interventions, forecasting, and monitoring.

Cashman et al. (2008) shows that building knowledge of educational institutions while engaging the public on data manipulation, prolongs the timelines for projects implementation, promotes feedback and produces better results. Engaging citizens, identifying community gaps, and actioning plans for skills development are pillars for citizens unity in projects implementation (Chaskin, 2001; Foster-Fishman et al., 2006). Valuable capacity strength is built from bottom- up which extends individual engagement to consider sharing information, participating in policy making and taking roles in implementation (Chaskin, 2001). Zacocks and Guckenburg (2007) in a study that examined development of citizen skills and knowledge to curb societal shortfalls. Promoting Community capacity building and outsourcing funds were the outcomes for strong key actors in implementing policies.

Monitoring process is an important in ensuring that goals and outcomes policies in projects implementation are achieved. The goals recognize proper resource utilization and engagement of communities in projects policy implementation (Kenya Human Rights Commission, 2010). Successful implementation of polices in projects is depended on how well polices are monitored to promote community developments (Ochieng'& Tubey, 2013). Monitoring promotes efficacy, transparency and outcomes of policy implementation improving the societal economic

and social- cultural status of communities (Kenya Human Rights Commission, 2010). Monitoring assesses whether policy goals are put to action, variations noted, and action taken on time (Patton, 2010). Ochieng'& Tubey (2013), Asserts that monitoring involves setting of goals with timelines determines at the beginning of the project. Monitoring is an essential project planning machinery that evaluates policies via the implementing actors to ensure proper allocation of funds and skilled personnel for achieving the set objectives (Mwangi, 2005). Monitoring recognizes the costs to be spent, timelines scope, and output quality (Kenya Human Rights Commission, 2010).

Banks and bilateral aid agencies used monitoring to find outcomes in policy development efficacy and accountability (Briceno, 2010). Australian government used monitoring to manage finance departments and advising other department in public sector on monitoring mechanisms on implementation programs (Mackay, 2005). Callistus and Clinton (2017), In a journal review noted, stakeholder involvement in monitoring of development project increased service delivery. Challenges of delivery was evident where monitoring was ignored leading to procurement lapses, poor service delivery, dissatisfaction of clients and failure to conform to projects specifications in Ghana.

Theoretical Framework

New Public Management Theory
This theory was founded by scholars in United Kingdom and Australia (Hood and Jackson 1991), in the discipline of public administration. This accrued from the conation that management influenced performance in public and private sector. New public Management (Ferlie et al., 1996) were thoughts borrowed from private firms and pasted to public organizations (Hood, 1991, 1995). The ideas and thoughts were linked the modern tenets of governance (Grindle, 2004). Osborne and Gaebler (1992) addressed changes public organizations.

This theory is linked to the study as public engagement requires new management techniques to increase the efficiency, transparency, effectiveness, accountability, and service delivery in policy implementation. Boyne and Walker (2006), Boyne and Brewer (2010), argued that management methods affect performance outcomes and results of public and private organizations. Elements in New public management in cost cutting and management concepts including downsizing, rightsizing are key for proper policy planning. Monitoring in new public management cannot be overemphasized as an essential tool for collecting data for decision making.
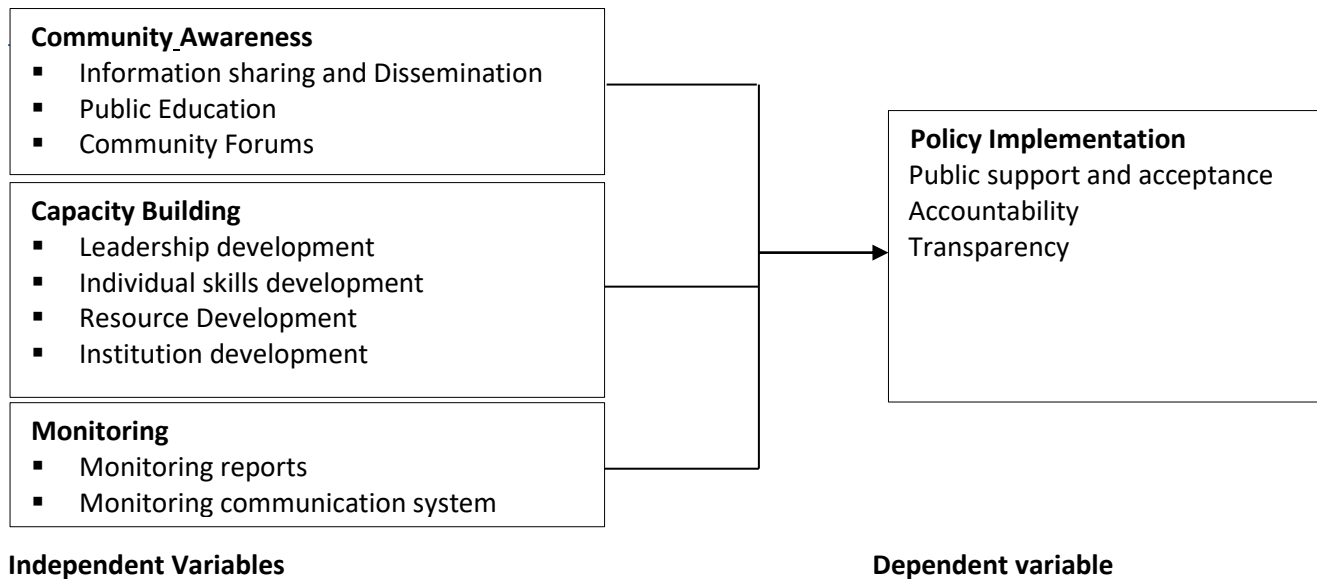
The Social Learning Theory
The theory was coined by (Bandura 1971) and stipulates individual behaviors, and the surrounding society affects one another. The main principles of social learning are modelling, imitating and close observation (Bandura, 1987). Learning is done through observing the behaviors of others and aggression learnt by living in an aggressive environment (Bandura, 1987). The theory was founded by Sears and Bandura from an idea on how people behave in different occasions and how this affects their characters in future (Grusec, 1992). Sears used psychoanalytical theory to seek solutions for human behaviors and characters, however, Bandura thought of information-processing theory (Grusec, 1992). They both stressed on being attentive, good memory and imitating as key elements of Social learning (Grusec, 1992). Learners are in both cultural and social settings in groups and organizations. Learning is an important principle in policy making (Daniels & Walker, 1996).

The theory is linked to community awareness where community is actively involved through collaboration with the policy implementors, social grouping, dialogue and open communication in sharing ideas hence reducing disparities within the community and cooperation gained from the community leading to success on implementation. Social exchange theory is also linked to capacity building where community capacity can be built

through learning from the leadership and the implementing institutions. Capacity building can also be done through Observation, imitation, modeling and through environmental influence.

Learning is process even to high-quality and experienced professionals and so is capacity building.

Community Awareness
- Information sharing and Dissemination
- Public Education
- Community Forums

Capacity Building
- Leadership development
- Individual skills development
- Resource Development
- Institution development

Monitoring
- Monitoring reports
- Monitoring communication system

Policy Implementation
Public support and acceptance
Accountability
Transparency

Independent Variables

Dependent variable

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher (2020)

METHODOLOGY

A Descriptive design was used in this study. Kilifi County was the site of study bordering Mombasa and Kwale counties to the south. The targeted population was 100 respondents drawn from sub county staff and citizens involved in decision making. The sampling frame elaborated further the composition of sub-county staff and community members involved in decision making from the target population. Stratified simple random sampling was utilized. The population was grouped into strata of unrelated criteria as; Sub-county heads of department, County Executive committee, sub-county project management committee, sub-county administrators, chiefs and assistant chiefs and village elders. Questionnaires were ideal and convenient tool for data collection and for acquiring information from respondents. Questionnaires were considered simple, cheap, and easy to administer and analyze data. The researcher used inferential statistics for data analysis. Data analysis software, Statistical Package of Social Science (SSPS)

was used to analyze, verify errors, check consistency and completeness of data. The model shown below computed the co-relation between independent and dependent variables under study. Multiple linear regression model was:

$$Y = a + β1X1 + β2X2 + β3X3 + e$$

Where:

Y = dependent variable (Policy implementation)

a = Intercept or constant value

bi = Partial regression coefficient (i = 1, 2, 3)

Xi = independent variables

(X1 =Community awareness, X2 = capacity building,

X3 = monitoring)

e = Error term

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Community awareness on development project Policy Implementation

The first objective was assessing effects of community awareness on development projects policy implementation. This was shown on table 1 below;

Table 1: Public Forums for Public Engagement

Forum	Frequency	Percentage
Town hall meetings	4	5.7
civic education	42	60.0
Opinion polls	1	1.4
Round tables	1	1.4
Barazas	21	30.0
All the above	1	1.4
Total	**70**	**100.0**

Source: Research data (2021)

As portrayed on table 1 majority of respondents 42(60%) indicated that civic education was most preferred forum for creating community awareness on policy implementation. 21(30%) noted barazas were used, town hall meeting 4(5.7%) while opinion polls, round tables and all the above accounting for 1(1.4. The study revealed that village elders were also a point of contact through the chiefs in reaching out to communities within their areas of dispensation. Their findings follow results by Innes et al (1994), examining detailed strategies applicable in community awareness policy implementation among which were stakeholder's representation, openness in decisions, forum gatherings and resource support for decision making.

Table 2: Community awareness on development projects policy implementation

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
County Government provides public education during policy implementation	2	2.9	22	31.4	7	10	35	50	4	5.7	3.24	1.055
The county government shares and disseminates information to the community on policy implementation on local media (radio, TV and Newspaper)	3	4.3	27	38.6	17	24.3	20	28.6	3	4.3	2.90	1.009
The Public engagement forums for policy implementation are published on the county website and notices posted in public places	5	7.1	29	41.4	19	27.1	16	22.9	1	1.4	2.70	0.953
The county Government creates community awareness through social medial for policy acceptance and support	3	4.3	23	32.9	19	27.1	20	28.6	5	7.1	3.01	1.042
Community awareness in public engagement influence policy implementation	5	7.1	25	35.7	19	27.1	20	28.6	1	1.4	2.81	0.982

Source: Research data (2021)

Research results on table 2 showed that 2(2.9%) strongly disagreed on provision of public education to citizens during development projects policy implementation. 22(31.4 %) disagreed, 7(10%) were not sure, 35(50%) agreed that county government provides education to public on policy implementation and 4(5%) strongly agreed. Public education being key in creating awareness, the finding clearly shows that the communities involved through education on development project policy implementation. World Bank (2015), notes that citizen involvement in implementation is promoted

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through educating the local communities, reach out to the communities, face to face communication, developing knowledge and skills of institutions and widely engaging communal activities.

In addition, 27(38.6 %) disagree that county government shares and disseminates information to the community on policy implementation through the local media. 3(4.3%) strongly disagreed, 17(24.3%) were not sure, 20(28.6%) agreed and 3(4.3%) strongly agreed. 31.3% of respondents disagreed with county shares and disseminates information on local media, however, they added that information is mostly share via barazas and local meetings convened by the chiefs.

Furthermore, 5(7.1%) strongly disagreed that public engagement forums for policy implementation are published on county website and notice posted on public places, 29(41.1%) disagreed, 19(27.1%) were not sure, 16(22.9%) agreed and 1(1.4) strongly agreed. Majority of the respondents disagreed 48.1% that engagement forums are published on county website and notes posted on public places, they noted that most forums are barazas convened by local area chiefs. Moreover, 3(4.3%) strongly disagreed with county government creates awareness for policy acceptance and support, 23(32.9%) disagreed, 19(27.1%) were not sure, 20(28.6%) and 5(7.1%) strongly agreed. Respondents who disagreed argued that awareness for development projects implementation has been

scanty with little support from the public. This was supported by the 27.1% who were not sure of county government creating awareness for implementation. A sample of 5(7.1%) strongly disagreed with community awareness influences policy implementation. 25(35.7%) disagreed, 19(27.1%) were not sure, 20(28.6%) agreed and 1(1.4%) strongly agreed. The findings showed that 25(35.7%) disagreed and 19(27.1%) were not sure of community awareness for policy implementation. Most of the respondents argued that most development projects policies are unknown to the community while others are made political, with little community involvement. This is a clear indication that the county government is still teething on community awareness for development project policy implementation. Graves, (1995) noted that a responsible government should ensure that communities are actively involved on policy choices that are available to the society. Rossi et al. (2004) asserted that implementation of policies is not actioned as designed, most are politically compromised, with no room for citizens engagement in the implementation.

Effects of Capacity building on development projects policy implementation

The second objective was the effects of capacity building on development projects policy implementation. The results were portrayed by the table 3 below.

Table 3: Effects of Capacity building on development projects policy implementation

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev.
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
County government develops individual skills for community leaders for efficiency policy implementation	6	8.6	25	35.7	14	20	21	30	4	5.7	2.89	1.110
Resources are well allocated at subcounty level for success in policy implementation.	3	4.3	31	44.3	9	12.9	21	30	6	8.6	2.94	1.128
Community institutions developed at subcounty level to support policy implementation	2	2.9	39	55.7	15	21.4	11	15.7	3	4.3	2.63	0.935
Capacity building in public engagement influences policy implementation	4	5.7	24	34.3	18	25.7	20	28.6	4	5.7	2.94	1.048

Source: Research data (2021)

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6(8.6%) strongly disagreed with county government develops individual skills for community leaders for efficiently in policy implementation, 25(35.7 %) respondents disagreed, 14(20%) were not sure, 21(30%) agreed while 4(5.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed. The results showed that there was need for improved skills development within the county government to enhance the policy implementation efficiency.

On resource allocation, 3(4.3%) strongly disagreed that resources for development projects policy implementation were well distributed at sub county level, 31(44,3%) disagreed, 9(12.9%) were not sure, 21(30%) of the respondents agreed while 6(8.6%) strongly agreed. It is clear there is no balance resource allocation for successful development projects policy implementation at the subcounty level. Some respondents felt that they were not aware of the budgets in policy implantation and the community is never consulted when these implementations take place.

Moreover, 2(2.9%) strongly disagreed with community institutions are developed at sub county level to support in policy implementation, 39(55.7%) disagreed 15(21.4%) we not sure, 11(15.7%) of respondents agrees and 3(4.3%) strongly agreed. From these results, there is need for county government to collaborate with existing community institutions for support in developing

skills for the community to improve on policy implementation.

In addition, 4(5.7%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that capacity building influences policy implementation, 24(34.3%) disagreed, 18(25.7%) were not sure, 20(28.6%) of the respondents agreed while 4(5.6%) strongly agreed. This result shows that majority respondents disagree that capacity building influences development projects implementation and others unaware of capacity building in policy implementation. It is of importance therefore, for the county to involve the public in skills development through the policy implementors for success in development projects policy implementation.

These findings agree with Zacocks and Guckenburg (2007), noting that Learning opportunities and skills development supports in developing capabilities of communities in policy implementation. Resource allocation for implementation was considered very important in attainment of funds and enhancing institutions, structures, and systems for success in projects policy implementation.

Effects of Monitoring on development policy implementation

This study found out how monitoring affects development projects policy implementation. Findings were as shown on table 4 below.

Table 4: Effects of monitoring on development policy implementation

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev.
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
County Government has a monitoring framework for policy implementation	5	7.1	27	38.6	14	20	18	25.7	6	8.6	2.89	11.110
Community participates in monitoring programs in implementing development policies	6	8.6	24	34.3	18	25.7	17	24.3	5	7.1	2.94	1.128
Monitoring reports are provided to the public for feedback while implementing development policies.	3	4.3	21	30	5	7.1	26	37.1	15	21.4	2.66	1.020
The County Government has efficient monitoring system for effective Monitoring process during policy implementation	3	4.3	27	38.6	14	20	21	30	5	7.1	2.63	0.935
Monitoring influence policy implementation	2	2.9	21	30	8	11.4	29	41.4	10	14.3	2.94	1.048

Table 4 indicated that 27(38.6%) of the respondents disagreed that count government of Kilifi have monitoring framework for projects policy implementation, 5(7.1%) strongly disagreed, 14(20%) were not sure, 18(25.7%) of the respondents agreed while 6(8.6%) strongly agreed. From the results majority of respondents 38.6% disagreed that there is a monitoring framework. Ideally, implementation of development project cannot be successful without a proper monitoring process. More efforts, therefore, needs to be employed by Kilifi county on developing a monitoring framework for efficiency in projects implementation.

24(34.3%) of the respondents disagreed with community participates in monitoring programs in the implementation of development projects policies, (8.6%) strongly disagreed, 18(25.7%) were on sure ,17(24.3%) of the respondents agrees and 5(7.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed. This result shows that communities are rarely involved in monitoring programs for development projects implementation. Communities being key stakeholders, there is need for involvement in monitoring programs. Agreeing with Callistus and Clinton (2017), reported poor community involvement in monitoring of public projects leading to delayed project delivery in the local government.

On monitoring reports, 3(4.3%) of respondents strongly disagreed, 21(30%) disagreed, 5(7.1%) were not sure, 26(37.1%) of respondents agreed with monitoring reports are provided to the public for feedback during projects implementation and 15(21.4%) strongly agreed. Findings shows that majority of the respondents (37.1%) agreed monitoring reports were provided to the public for feedback during project implementation

Furthermore, majority of respondents 27(38.6%) disagreed with county government had an efficient monitoring communication system for effective monitoring during policy implementation. Efficiently communication system is vital in project policy monitoring during implementation. Lai, Hancock, & Muller-Praefcke (2012) noted that lack of communication infrastructure in monitoring and support services restrict effective monitoring tool for success in projects implementation. It is, therefore, important for Kilifi county to develop a monitoring communication system for effective policy implementation as supported by UNDP, (2009) that communication system in monitoring programs policy implementation is essential for improved expectations, deliverables, and tracking of performance progress.

2(2.9%) strongly disagreed that monitoring influences policy implementation, 21(30%) of the respondents disagreed, 8(11.4%) were not sure, 29(41.4%) of respondents agree while 10(14.3%) strongly agreed. The results show that most of respondents 29(41.4%) agreed that monitoring influences development projects policy implementation as supported by Mwangi, (2005) that Monitoring is an important management tool for policy implementation since through the implementors, available resources can be established and ensure human resources are competently constituted for development projects policy achievement.

Development projects policy implementation
The study sought to seek views from the respondents on development projects policy implementation. Table 5 showed the outcomes:

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Table 5: Development projects policy implementation

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. dev.
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
There is Public support and acceptance on policy implementation for county development projects	2	2.9	19	27.1	16	22.9	26	37.1	7	10	3.24	1.055
Policy implementors are accountable for resource utilization	1	1.4	24	34.3	13	18.6	25	35.7	7	10	3.19	1.067
There is Transparency on the policy implementation processes	1	1.4	31	44.3	10	14.3	23	32.9	5	7.1	3	1.063
Development projects policy implementation is successful in Kilifi county	1	1.4	22	31.4	18	25.7	24	34.3	5	7.1	3.14	0.997

Source: Research data (2021)

As indicated on table 5, 2(2.9%) strongly disagreed that there was public support and acceptance on development projects policy implementation 19(27.1%) disagreed, 16(22.9%) of the respondents were not sure, 26(37.1%) of the respondents agreed, while 7(10%) strongly agreed. Majority of respondents 26(37.1%) agreed, indicated that the public supports development projects implementation, this gains support from Thomas (1995) who noted that citizen awareness encourages public support in policy implementation producing better decisions and more efficiency benefiting the society. 24(34.3%) of respondents disagreed that policy implementors are accountable for resource utilization, 13(18.6%) were not sure, 25(35.7%) of the respondents agreed and 7(10%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Majority of respondents agreed that policy implementors are accountable for resource utilization. Some respondents urged that the budgets for policy implementation are in custody of those implementing the projects and therefore the are bound to be accountable for resource utilization.

In addition, 31(44.1%) of respondents disagreed that there was transparency on the development projects policy implementation. 1(1.4%) strongly disagreed, 10(14.3%) were not sure, 24(34.3%) agreed, and 5(7.1%) strongly agreed. Disagreement on the majority respondents 31(44.1%) indicated a loophole in transparency during implementation of development projects policies. Several respondents felt that most development project policies are politically compromised and done by the government. The citizens realize projects have already began and never involved in the processes, translating to no transparency. This was affirmed by Rossi et al. (2004) stating that many policies are not implemented as designed and are politically compromised with citizens not actively involved, facilities inadequate; policy implementors lack required skills and expertise for interventions.

22(31.4%) of respondents disagreed that development projects policy implementation was successful in Kilifi county, 1(1.4%) strongly disagreed, 18(25.7%) were not sure, 24(34.3%) agreed, and 5(7.1%) strongly agreed. A majority 24(34.3%) of respondents some projects were successfully implemented and met the timelines. Lipsky (1980), notes with discretion that policy implementors in the field are key factor in successful policy implementation.

Inferential statistics

Table 6: Correlation of the Coefficient

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.464[a]	0.751	0.519	0.603

a. Predictors: (Constant), Monitoring, Community awareness, Capacity building

b. Dependent variable: Development project policy implementation

Source: Research data (2021)

Research finding on table 6 showed that independent variable (public engagement) explained 71.5% (R square 0.715) of the dependent variable. The adjusted R squared accounted for 0.519 (51.9%) indicating the variation of the dependent variable (development projects policy implementation) as explained by the independent variables (community awareness, capacity building and monitoring). However, there are other factors not considered in this study that accounted for the residual of 28.5%.

Table 7: ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	14.744	3	4.915	6.026	.001[b]
	Residual	53.828	66	0.816		
	Total	68.571	69			

a. Dependent Variable: Development projects policy implementation

b. b. Predictors: (Constant), Monitoring, Community awareness, Capacity building

Source: Research data (2021)

Statistical significance of regression model was computed indicating F statistic as 6.026 and P-value 0.001<0.05 this indicated that the study variables significantly influenced development projects policy implementation in Kilifi county.

Regression coefficients

To establish the influence of public engagement on development projects policy implementation in Kilifi county, regression coefficients were generated as per below table.

Table 8: Regression Coefficients

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.333	0.444		3.002	0.004
Community awareness	0.186	0.120	0.183	1.551	0.126
Capacity building	0.191	0.121	0.201	1.579	0.119
Monitoring	0.216	0.104	0.248	2.077	0.041

Source: Research data (2021)

As per the SPSS regression coefficients presented the equitation

$Y = a + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + e$ was equated to:

$Y = 1.333 + 0.186X_1 + 0.191X_2 + 0.216X_3 + e$

Where: Y=Development projects policy implementation

X_1= Community awareness

X_2 = Capacity building

X_3= Monitoring

The research findings on table 8 indicated that community awareness had a significant coefficient

(β =0.186) and P-Value of 0.126 <0.05 which positively influenced development projects implementation. Capacity building had significant coefficient (β =0.191), P-value 0.119<0.05 which meant it contributed positively to development projects policy implementation. Monitoring had a positive significant coefficient of β =0.216 and P-value 0.041<0.05 this denoted a positive effect on development project policy implementation in Kilifi county. Thomas (1995) , Vroom and Jago (1988) noted that, policies founded on citizen awareness are easily implemented and cheaper in cost as the community is fully involved and made aware before implementation begins. Indege Francis (2006), affirmed in a survey that capacity building strategies in development of skills and capabilities of individuals in the community promotes their ability to own and support policy implementation initiatives to achieve objectives. Ochieng'& Tubey, (2013) noted that successful implementation of polices in projects is depended on how well polices are monitored to promote community developments.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Public engagement is an important element to the community in contributing to policy decision making. It Improves community norms to work collectively, developing confidence and transparency in projects policy implementation. The study established that Kilifi County is making milestones in engaging the public in policy implementation, however, there is need to fill gap for the larger population who had not been involved in public engagements for development project policy implementation. The study revealed that Barazas and civic education were the forums considered for creating awareness. The study noted that village elders were a point of contact through the chiefs in reaching out to communities within their area of dispensation. The study findings also showed that there was little support and acceptance by the public for development projects. Study results indicated low skills development within the county government to enhance the

policy implementation efficiency with no balanced resource allocation for successful policy implementation at the subcounty level. It was found that collaboration with existing community institutions for support in developing skills for the community to improve on policy implementation was lacking. Moreover, the study results found that majority of respondent were not aware of monitoring framework for efficiency in projects implementation and communities were rarely involved in monitoring programs. Study findings showed that monitoring reports were provided to the public for feedback during project implementation, however there was not efficient monitoring communication system for effective monitoring. Monitoring influenced policy implementation where policy implementors were accountable for resource utilization on allocated budgets. However, transparency in the implementation process seemed a miss where most respondents felt that projects policies were politically compromised and centralized to the government. The study established that projects policies were partially successful in implementation, where some project policies were achieved on set timelines while others flopped in the process. In a nutshell, Kilifi County government is making efforts for public engagement on development projects policy implementation, however, the processes of implementation are still centralized, where community awareness, capacity building and monitoring has not been prioritized to the community as key factors for success in projects policy implementation.

This study recommended that Kilifi county government to enlarge the level of public engagement to the grass roots and ensure that it is well understood to enhance support and acceptance of development projects policy implementation. Kilifi county government to collaborate with existing community institutions for support in developing skills for the community to improve on policy implementation. Implementation of development project policies cannot be

successful without a proper monitoring process, there is need, therefore, for Kilifi county government to develop clear monitoring framework and a monitoring communication infrastructure to increase efficiency in projects policy implementation

Suggestions for further study
This study suggested a related study to be carried out in other Kilifi sub counties for generalized findings on public engagement and development projects policy implementation

Another study can be carried other counties in Kenya the factors influencing public engagement on development projects policy implementation

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