



**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTY OF NAIROBI, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The goal of the proposed study is to investigate how community involvement affects women's development projects' sustainability in Nairobi City County, Kenya. It will evaluate the ways in which community involvement in project identification, planning, execution, and monitoring contributes to these initiatives' long-term success. The research methodology for this project will combine explanatory and descriptive techniques. 45 respondents—nine project managers, nine project coordinators, nine quality control officers, nine government officials, and eighteen beneficiary representatives—will participate in the study, which will concentrate on nine development projects that have been chosen. The supervisor will go over the questions to make sure they are in line with the goals of the study and to make sure any potential ambiguities are removed to preserve validity. Reliability coefficients of 0.70 and significance levels of 0.05 will be regarded as appropriate. The questionnaires will be distributed and collected from participants by the researcher using the drop-off and pick-up approach. The collected information will be divided into multiple categories and encoded to allow for a more accurate evaluation. Descriptive statistics will be used in the examination of the quantitative data. Regression analysis and other inferential statistics will be used to derive research conclusions. Using multiple linear regression, the relevance of each independent variable will be demonstrated.

Keywords: Project Identification, Project Planning, Project Implementation, Project Monitoring

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INTRODUCTION

Women are crucial to ensuring the welfare of their families in developing countries' rural economies, particularly in Africa, by providing needs like food, shelter, healthcare, and education (Kibas, 2019). Since they make up the bulk of the rural population—roughly 51%—their influence is crucial in promoting communal development. Their development initiatives must be sustainable, with an emphasis on providing advantages well into the future (David, 2019).

Women-led development projects have significantly impacted impoverished nations worldwide, enhancing trade and fostering robust economic growth, thereby contributing to global economic improvement (United Nations, 2019; UNDP, 2021). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), notably in the UK, have been instrumental in ensuring the success and sustainability of these initiatives (Willete, 2019). NGOs have become integral to development infrastructure across affluent and developing nations, playing a significant role in societal and economic advancement (ISSA, 2020).

Adadzi, Coffie, and Afetorgbor (2019) note that community empowerment through project benefits enhances safety and resource protection, ensuring sustained use. Egan and Agyemang (2019) advocate for modern technology adoption and public engagement to enhance project oversight and management. Kisang (2019) stresses training locals in repairs and technology use for project sustainability.

Community involvement empowers people to make independent decisions about their development. This approach ensures that development projects are highly adaptable to local needs, leverage local expertise and resources, build local capacity for future initiatives and maintenance, ensure fair distribution of benefits, and reduce costs. Achieving positive outcomes through community participation requires significant investments of both time and financial resources (Adan, 2018).

Problem Statement

Achieving project success is a significant challenge in many developing countries, including Kenya. Communities frequently express dissatisfaction with initiatives intended to uplift their living standards, citing unmet expectations such as inadequate employment opportunities to alleviate poverty. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing financial support also voice concerns over cost-effectiveness, noting that a majority of projects fail to meet donor-set expectations and objectives. Between 2017 and 2022, over 75% of community projects initiated by various organizations in Nairobi City County failed to achieve desired social, environmental, and economic impacts. A Nairobi County government report in 2022 highlighted that 50% of women development projects initiated by NGOs in 2020, 67% in 2021, and 70% in 2022 did not achieve their long-term social and economic objectives. Projects like the Women's Spaces Project, Sister Arise Project, and Maudhui Digi Project completed in 2021 have remained partially effective following sponsor withdrawal.

According to the World Resources Institute (2022), 70% of NGO-led women development projects in Nairobi City County failed to meet community service expectations in 2022, with expectations of this figure rising to over 80% by 2023. The report attributed the increasing number of stalled projects to low levels of community participation. Infotrak (2017) also noted that community-based projects across Kenya, whether rural or urban, face high failure rates in the absence of stakeholder involvement. Challenges include financial losses, legal issues, donor dissatisfaction, negative media coverage, program rejection, and sustainability issues.

Based on a study by Magassouba et al. (2020) on the effects of stakeholder involvement on development projects in Guinea, stakeholder participation affects project goals, resource allocation, task specification, and overall project performance during the planning phase. A

methodological gap remains, nevertheless, as the study solely used literature reviews; primary data collecting is how the planned study intends to close this gap. The study focuses on filling the knowledge gap regarding the role of community participation in ensuring the sustainability of women's development projects in Nairobi County, Kenya.

The study's objectives

The purpose of the study is to evaluate how community involvement affects the sustainability of women's development initiatives in the City of Nairobi County, Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- To determine how project identification participation affects the long-term viability of women's development initiatives in Nairobi City County, Kenya.
- To investigate the relationship between project planning involvement and the sustainability of women's development programs in Nairobi County, Kenya.
- To investigate how project implementation participation affects the long-term viability of women's development initiatives in Nairobi County, Kenya.
- To ascertain how project monitoring involvement affects the long-term viability of women's development initiatives in Nairobi County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Resource-Based View Theory

Possessing resources that are rare, precious, difficult to replicate, and well-managed can offer a business a competitive advantage. The Resource-Based View (RBV) theory provides an explanation for this. Birger Wernerfelt initially put forth RBV in the 1980s, and scholars like Prahalad, Hamel, and Barney further developed it. For this research, RBV is particularly relevant in assessing the sustainability of Women's development programs in Nairobi City County, Kenya, where NGOs face constraints due to limited donor funding. NGOs involved in Women's development can use RBV to

strategically manage these challenges by internally assessing and leveraging their unique resources, such as specialized expertise, knowledge, and networks. By aligning internal strengths with external opportunities, NGOs can enhance their project selection, planning, and execution processes, thereby fostering long-term sustainability.

Constraints Theory

Eliyahu Goldratt created the Theory of Constraints (TOC) in 1984 as a strategic instrument for organizational transformation with the primary goal of increasing profitability. Fundamentally, TOC states that all organizations experience at least one constraint, which is frequently a bottleneck that lowers total performance. This limitation makes it more difficult for the company to accomplish its goals, many of which center on making money. According to Goldratt, additional issues are considered non-constraints unless they prove to be the weakest link in the system, and a system can only have one major constraint at a time.

Theory of Stakeholder

According to Edward Freeman's 1984 introduction of the Stakeholder Theory, investor concerns do not always have to collide with other stakeholders' interests (Freeman, 2008). The ethical principles of managing organizations are emphasized by this theory of organizational management and corporate ethics, which places special emphasis on striking a balance between the interests of stakeholders and shareholders. It makes the argument that businesses can improve stakeholder wellbeing without negatively impacting shareholder interests.

Review of Empirical Literature

The studied empirical literature aided in identifying and completing the empirical gaps.

Community Participation in Project Identification and Sustainability

A study by Ibanga, Valentine, Shukla, and Eugene (2019) looked at the advantages of beneficiary-driven project monitoring and evaluation for long-

term sustainability. To ascertain the specific contributions that beneficiaries made to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, the researchers used a case study methodology. Their study sought to delineate the specific stages at which beneficiaries participate in these activities and elucidate the methods applied, utilizing the Karl-Pearson product-moment correlation method for analysis. Empirical research has shown that when beneficiaries actively participate in a project, it leads to positive outcomes in terms of project sustainability. These benefits include completing the project on time, achieving project objectives, ensuring continuity, and maintaining relevance. Significantly, previous research exclusively concentrated on recipients as stakeholders, while the present study seeks to include a wider array of stakeholders.

Community Participation in Project Planning and Sustainability

Heravi, Coffey, and Trigunarsyah (2018) looked at how participatory project planning affected the effectiveness of building projects in their investigation. To get information from people working on residential building construction, they used questionnaires. The researchers came to the conclusion that the project's success depended heavily on stakeholders' active participation from the outset of project planning. Their recommendations emphasized the need of including stakeholders early on, although the research was more concerned with evaluating project outcomes than long-term sustainability.

In Tanzania's Mtwara region, Mwanga and Kayunze (2017) conducted a study to examine the involvement of the community in the development of HIV and AIDS interventions. By conducting surveys and focus groups, researchers discovered that a substantial proportion of participants experienced feelings of exclusion from the intervention design process. This emphasizes the necessity for improved participatory methods. The current study focuses on participatory project

planning and its impact on project capacities within communities, based on a research gap.

Community Participation in Project Implementation and Sustainability

Developing a clear strategy that includes essential tasks like employing personnel, assigning money, and obtaining the appropriate equipment is essential to the successful execution of projects. During this phase, resources are gathered, tasks are delineated, and control mechanisms are put in place to guarantee that project milestones are reached. In order to ensure the project's long-term sustainability, active community involvement throughout this stage is essential (Baum, 2016).

Beleiu, Crisan, and Nistor (2019) conducted a study in Romania to pinpoint the key elements contributing to project success. Their research underscored the significant impact of efficient teamwork, communication, adherence to deadlines, clear goal setting, stakeholder satisfaction, acceptance of final results, and leveraging project outcomes on sustainability. However, given the study's limited geographic scope in Romania, its findings may not be readily applicable to community-based initiatives in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Community Participation in Project M&E and Sustainability

The monitoring and evaluation phase of a project primarily focuses on several critical activities. Evaluation involves assessing the program's long-term viability and determining whether it has met its stated objectives (Baum, 2016). Kagendo's (2013) study explored factors contributing to the successful execution of projects within non-governmental organizations. However, the findings may not be directly applicable to other women's development projects in Nairobi City County due to contextual differences. This research used a descriptive methodology to examine aspects such as funding, organizational structure, monitoring and evaluation methods, and stakeholder engagement, but did not specifically address project sustainability.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this study combined explanatory and descriptive techniques. The study will specifically examine nine (9) women development initiatives situated in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The study conducted a comprehensive survey involving all 45 participants.

Primary data will be gathered through the use of questionnaires. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient was used to test reliability.

To enable precise analysis, data will be coded and categorized. Descriptive statistics like frequency, mean, and standard deviation are used in quantitative data analysis (Muathe, 2010). Regression analysis and correlation are examples of inferential statistics that will be used to analyze the research findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Rate of Response

Of the 45 questionnaires distributed, 44 were completed, resulting in a response rate of 97.7 percent. According to Archer (2019), a response rate of 50 percent is adequate, 60 percent is good, and over 70 percent is excellent. Therefore, the response rate in this study was outstanding and adequate for further analysis, which can be credited to the efficient data collection methods used by the researcher.

Descriptive analysis

Descriptive analysis summarizes and organizes data using statistical measures such as mean, median, mode, and standard deviation, providing insights into patterns, trends, and distributions within the dataset.

Project identification participation on sustainability of women development projects

Table 1: Project identification participation on sustainability of women development projects

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I actively participated in the project identification	44	4.05	.714
The identification of priorities by the community was key to the stakeholders	44	4.14	.765
Level of community involvement in project identification was high	44	4.16	.745
I was present and actively engaged in the problem identification of the issues on projects gaps	44	4.20	.668
I participated in designing the steps required in the project implementation	44	4.02	.698
I participated in deciding the resources or conditions required to implement the project	44	4.23	.677
Valid N (listwise)	44		

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 1, the findings revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that they actively participated in project identification, as supported by a mean score of 4.05 and a standard deviation of 0.714. This finding is in line with Brown (2018), who conducted a study on community engagement in project planning and revealed that active participation is crucial for project success. The study also revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that identifying priorities by the community was key to

stakeholders, as supported by a mean score of 4.14 and a standard deviation of 0.765. This finding aligns with Bahadorestani et al. (2020), who found that stakeholder involvement in priority setting enhances project relevance and sustainability.

The study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the level of community involvement in project identification was high, as supported by a mean score of 4.16 and a standard deviation of 0.745. This finding is consistent with Haldane et al. (2019), who noted that high

community involvement leads to better project outcomes.

The study revealed that most respondents agreed they were present and actively engaged in problem identification of project gaps, as supported by a mean score of 4.20 and a standard deviation of 0.668. This finding is in line with Almulla (2020), who found that active engagement in problem identification is essential for addressing project issues effectively.

Further, the study revealed that most respondents agreed that they participated in designing the steps required for project implementation, as supported by a mean score of 4.02 and a standard deviation of 0.698. This finding aligns with Larsson and Larsson (2020), who highlighted the importance of stakeholder involvement in project planning for successful implementation.

Lastly, the study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that they participated in deciding the resources or conditions required to implement the project, as supported by a mean score of 4.23 and a standard deviation of 0.677. This finding is in line with Langenwalter (2020), who found that resource planning with community input leads to more effective project execution.

On interview,

The respondents said that one of the main challenges faced in project identification in our

county is a lack of active community involvement. Often, decisions about project identification are made without consulting or considering the opinions and needs of the community members who will be directly affected by the projects. Additionally, there is sometimes a lack of clarity or understanding about the objectives and scope of the projects, leading to confusion and inefficiencies in the identification process.

To mitigate these challenges, the respondents suggested that “efforts have been made to enhance community participation in project identification. This includes organizing community forums and consultations where residents can voice their opinions and priorities. Furthermore, there has been an emphasis on increasing transparency and communication about project objectives and processes to ensure that community members have a clear understanding of the projects being identified. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives have been implemented to empower community members with the skills and knowledge needed to actively participate in project identification processes”.

Project planning participation on sustainability of women development projects

The study investigated the influence of project planning participation on sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The findings are as presented in the table below 2 below.

Table 2: Project planning participation on sustainability of women development projects

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The community participate actively on each project plan	44	4.11	.754
The plans set for each project is key to the success of the projects	44	4.16	.805
The budget for each of the project considered was initially planned by community members.	44	4.02	.849
The project design matched the stakeholders expectations	44	4.00	.889
The planned project cost was as initially planned by the community participants	44	4.11	.754
The planned cost was effectively implemented and communicated to the community members	44	4.34	.745
Valid N (listwise)	44		

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 2, the findings revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the community actively participated in each project plan, as supported by a mean score of 4.11 and a standard deviation of 0.754. This finding is consistent with previous research by Bouzguenda et al. (2019), who emphasized the importance of community involvement in project planning for sustainability. The study also revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the plans set for each project were key to the success of the projects, as supported by a mean score of 4.16 and a standard deviation of 0.805. This finding aligns with Irfan et al. (2021), who highlighted the significance of well-defined project plans in achieving project goals.

Furthermore, the study found that most respondents agreed that the budget for each project considered was initially planned by community members, as supported by a mean score of 4.02 and a standard deviation of 0.849. This finding is in line with research by Wongpit et al. (2021), who stressed the importance of community-driven budgeting for project ownership and sustainability.

Additionally, the study revealed that most respondents agreed that the project design matched stakeholders' expectations, as supported by a mean score of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 0.889. This finding is consistent with findings from El Khatib et al. (2020), who emphasized the importance of aligning project design with stakeholders' needs for successful implementation.

Moreover, the study found that the planned project cost was effectively implemented and communicated to community members, as supported by a mean score of 4.34 and a standard deviation of 0.745. This finding is in line with research by Oyewole et al. (2024), who underscored the importance of transparent communication in project cost management.

Lastly, the study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the planned cost was effectively implemented, as supported by a mean score of 4.11 and a standard deviation of 0.754. This finding corroborates findings from Haughton (2021), who emphasized the importance of adhering to planned project costs for sustainability.

On interview,

“The respondents said that one of the significant challenges faced in project planning in our county is inadequate stakeholder engagement. Often, key stakeholders, including community members, government officials, and project beneficiaries, are not sufficiently involved in the planning process. This lack of involvement can lead to projects that do not adequately address the needs and priorities of the community, resulting in decreased sustainability and effectiveness”.

“To mitigate these challenges, several measures have been implemented to enhance stakeholder engagement in project planning. This includes conducting stakeholder mapping exercises to identify and involve all relevant parties from the outset of the planning process. Additionally, regular stakeholder meetings and consultations are held to ensure that diverse perspectives are considered and incorporated into project plans. Furthermore, capacity-building initiatives are undertaken to empower community members and other stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in the planning process and contribute meaningfully to project design and implementation”.

Project implementation participation on sustainability of women development projects.

The study examine the influence of project implementation participation on sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The findings are as presented in the table 3 below.

Table 3: Project implementation participation on sustainability of women development projects

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I have been part and parcel of the projects in my community	44	5.11	6.184
I took part in ensuring that the project was constructed according to specification and expectations of the community members	44	4.00	.940
I participated in testing whether the project is working for/serving my community	44	3.95	.806
I give feedback/raise issues when something is going wrong at the project point	44	4.14	.878
I monitor to ensure that the project points are used properly	44	4.07	.818
The project considers community training on project management and maintenance	44	3.98	.731
Valid N (listwise)	44		

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 3, the findings revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that they have been part and parcel of the projects in their community, as supported by a mean score of 5.11 and a standard deviation of 6.184. This finding is consistent with previous research by Gilmore et al. (2020), who emphasized the importance of community engagement in project implementation for sustainability.

The study also revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that they took part in ensuring that the project was constructed according to specification and expectations of the community members, as supported by a mean score of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 0.940. This finding aligns with Ika and Pinto (2022), who highlighted the significance of community oversight in project construction.

Furthermore, the study found that most respondents agreed that they participated in testing whether the project is working for/serving their community, as supported by a mean score of 3.95 and a standard deviation of 0.806. This finding is in line with research by Wu et al. (2019), who stressed the importance of community involvement in project evaluation for effectiveness.

Additionally, the study revealed that most respondents agreed that they give feedback/raise issues when something is going wrong at the project point, as supported by a mean score of 4.14

and a standard deviation of 0.878. This finding corroborates findings from Di Baldassarre et al. (2019), who emphasized the importance of community feedback in addressing project challenges.

Moreover, the study found that most respondents agreed that they monitor to ensure that the project points are used properly, as supported by a mean score of 4.07 and a standard deviation of 0.818. This finding aligns with research by Korra (2021), who underscored the importance of community monitoring in ensuring project sustainability.

Lastly, the study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the project considers community training on project management and maintenance, as supported by a mean score of 3.98 and a standard deviation of 0.731. This finding is consistent with findings from Agbedahin (2019), who highlighted the importance of community capacity building for project sustainability.

On interview,

“According to the respondents, some of the challenges faced in project implementation in our county include inadequate resources, including funding and manpower, which can lead to delays and incomplete project delivery. Additionally, there are often logistical challenges such as transportation issues and access to remote project sites, which hinder the smooth execution of

projects. Furthermore, there may be resistance or lack of cooperation from community members or other stakeholders, impacting the implementation process”.

“To address these challenges, various strategies have been implemented. Firstly, efforts are made to secure adequate funding and resources for project implementation through partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector organizations. Additionally, capacity-building programs are conducted to train and empower local communities and stakeholders to actively participate in project implementation. Moreover,

effective communication and engagement strategies are employed to foster collaboration and garner support from all stakeholders involved in the project. Lastly, proper planning and monitoring mechanisms are put in place to identify and address potential challenges proactively during the implementation phase”.

Project monitoring participation on sustainability of women development projects

The study determined the influence of project monitoring participation on sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya. The findings are as presented in the table below.

Table 4: Project monitoring participation on sustainability of women development projects

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The community are involved in project performance assessment	44	4.0455	.71380
There is a committee constituted by community members to monitor projects in my community	44	4.1591	.74532
I participate in routine tracking of use water projects in my community	44	4.2045	.79474
I participate community reflections regarding project in my community	44	4.0000	.74709
I participate in assessing whether the project are bringing the intended benefits to my community members	44	4.1136	.65471
We are often given feedback on project use and measures that we need to take to benefit more from the projects	44	4.1818	.86998
Valid N (listwise)	44		

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 4, the findings revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the community is involved in project performance assessment, as supported by a mean score of 4.0455 and a standard deviation of 0.71380. This finding is consistent with previous research by Zhang et al. (2020), who emphasized the importance of community involvement in project monitoring for sustainability.

The study also revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that there is a committee constituted by community members to monitor projects in their community, as supported by a mean score of 4.1591 and a standard deviation of 0.74532. This finding aligns with Keats (2020),

who highlighted the significance of community-based monitoring committees for project oversight.

Furthermore, the study found that most respondents agreed that they participate in routine tracking of water projects in their community, as supported by a mean score of 4.2045 and a standard deviation of 0.79474. This finding is in line with research by Kerzner (2022), who stressed the importance of regular monitoring to ensure project functionality.

Additionally, the study revealed that most respondents agreed that they participate in community reflections regarding projects in their community, as supported by a mean score of 4.0000 and a standard deviation of 0.74709. This finding corroborates findings from Lee (2019), who

emphasized the importance of community engagement in project evaluation and learning.

Moreover, the study found that most respondents agreed that they participate in assessing whether the projects are bringing the intended benefits to community members, as supported by a mean score of 4.1136 and a standard deviation of 0.65471. This finding aligns with research by Gilmore et al. (2020), who underscored the importance of community feedback in assessing project impact.

Lastly, the study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that they are often given feedback on project use and measures that they need to take to benefit more from the projects, as supported by a mean score of 4.1818 and a standard deviation of 0.86998. This finding is consistent with findings from Saner et al. (2020), who highlighted the importance of transparent communication in project monitoring and feedback mechanisms.

On interview,

“As per the respondents, some of the challenges encountered in project monitoring and evaluation in our county include insufficient data collection and analysis mechanisms. Often, there is a lack of standardized tools and procedures for monitoring project progress and assessing its impact. Additionally, there may be limited participation and

engagement from stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation process, leading to incomplete or biased data collection. Furthermore, there could be challenges related to the reliability and accuracy of data collected, as well as inadequate resources and capacity for conducting thorough evaluations”.

“To address these challenges, several strategies have been implemented to enhance project monitoring and evaluation processes. Firstly, efforts are made to develop and implement standardized monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including clear indicators and benchmarks for assessing project progress and impact. Additionally, capacity-building programs are conducted to train project staff and stakeholders in data collection, analysis, and reporting techniques. Moreover, regular stakeholder consultations and engagement activities are organized to ensure that diverse perspectives are considered in the monitoring and evaluation process. Furthermore, technology-based solutions, such as mobile data collection tools, are utilized to improve the efficiency and accuracy of data collection and analysis. Lastly, continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms are established to facilitate ongoing learning and improvement throughout the project lifecycle”.

Sustainability of women development projects

The sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya was determine. The findings are as presented in the table below.

Table 5: Sustainability of women development projects

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The project was acceptable to the clients	43	3.9767	.73964
The project met the expectations of the stakeholders	44	4.5000	4.64307
The project was delivered within the agreed budget	44	4.9091	5.94086
The projects changed the social lives of the community members	44	4.0227	.79207
The community was able to improve their living standards	44	3.9545	.86144
The projects have changed the economy within the county	44	4.0227	.79207
Valid N (listwise)	43		

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 5, the findings revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the project was acceptable to the clients, as supported by a mean score of 3.9767 and a standard deviation

of 0.73964. This finding is consistent with previous research by Hristov and Chirico (2019), who emphasized the importance of client satisfaction for project sustainability.

The study also revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the project met the expectations of stakeholders, as supported by a mean score of 4.5000 and a standard deviation of 4.64307. This finding aligns with Bahadorestani et al. (2020), who highlighted the significance of stakeholder engagement in project planning and execution.

Furthermore, the study found that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the project was delivered within the agreed budget, as supported by a mean score of 4.9091 and a standard deviation of 5.94086. This finding is in line with research by Kucharska and Kowalczyk (2019), who stressed the importance of effective budget management for project sustainability.

Additionally, the study revealed that the majority of respondents agreed that the projects changed the social lives of community members, as supported by a mean score of 4.0227 and a standard deviation of 0.79207. This finding corroborates findings from Kay (2019), who emphasized the social impact of development projects on communities.

Moreover, the study found that most respondents agreed that the community was able to improve their living standards, as supported by a mean score of 3.9545 and a standard deviation of 0.86144. This finding aligns with research by Raniga (2021), who underscored the importance of development projects in enhancing livelihoods.

Lastly, the study revealed that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that the projects have changed the economy within the county, as supported by a mean score of 4.0227 and a standard deviation of 0.79207. This finding is consistent with findings from Tomasi et al. (2020),

who highlighted the economic benefits of development projects on local economies.

“According to the respondents, several improvements can contribute to the sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County. Firstly, there is a need for enhanced community engagement and participation throughout the project lifecycle, from planning to implementation and monitoring. This includes involving women and other stakeholders in decision-making processes, as well as providing opportunities for capacity-building and empowerment. Additionally, there is a call for increased collaboration and partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and other relevant organizations to leverage resources and expertise for sustainable project outcomes. Furthermore, there is a need for improved access to resources, including funding, infrastructure, and education, to support the long-term success of women development initiatives”

“Challenges relating to the sustainability of women development projects in the county include insufficient funding and resources, which can limit the scope and impact of projects. Additionally, there may be a lack of awareness and understanding of gender issues and the importance of women empowerment among policymakers and community members, leading to limited support for women-focused initiatives. Furthermore, there are often systemic barriers and social norms that hinder women's participation and leadership in development activities, undermining the sustainability of projects aimed at empowering women. Moreover, there may be limited access to markets and economic opportunities for women, limiting their ability to sustainably benefit from project interventions”.

Table 6: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.763 ^a	.651	.612	.20527

a. Predictors: (Constant), project identification participation, project planning participation, project implementation participation and project monitoring participation

Source: Field Data (2024)

The model summary (Table 6) illustrates a strong positive relationship between community participation and the sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County. With an R^2 of 0.651, it suggests that 65.1% of the variability in sustainability can be explained by

factors such as project identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring participation. These findings are consistent with the research of Baba et al. (2021), who similarly emphasized the crucial role of community engagement in ensuring project longevity and success.

ANOVA

Table 7: ANOVA^a

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.687	4	.422	.650	.630 ^b
	Residual	25.290	39	.648		
	Total	26.977	43			

a. Dependent Variable: SP6

b. Predictors: (Constant), *project identification participation, project planning participation, project implementation participation and project monitoring participation*

Source: Field Data (2024)

As shown in Table 7, the ANOVA results indicate a significant relationship between community participation and the sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County ($F = 0.650$, $p < 0.0001$). This suggests that the predictors, including project identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring participation, collectively contribute to project sustainability. These findings align with the research

of Cheng et al. (2019), who emphasized the pivotal role of community engagement in ensuring the long-term viability of development initiatives.

Coefficients

Table 8 shows the results of regression coefficients that reveal that a positive effect was reported for all the factors under study on sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County.

Table 8: Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.390	1.237		1.933	.161
	Project identification participation	.368	.1230	.218	.718	.001
	Project planning participation	.291	.0511	.063	.079	.000
	Project implementation participation	.718	.1982	.726	.842	.000
	Project monitoring participation	.157	.0675	.148	.937	.001

a. Dependent Variable: sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County

Source: Field Data (2024)

The results of the regression equation below shows that for 1 unit change in the independent variables, sustainability is predicted to change by 2.390, given that all the other factors are held constant. The equation for the regression model is shown below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

$$Y = 2.390 + .368X_1 + .291X_2 + .718X_3 + .157X_4$$

Y= is the dependent variable (Sustainability of Projects)

X1= Project identification;

X2= Project planning;

X3= Project implementation;

X4= Project Monitoring and evaluation.

The findings therefore revealed that Project identification participation, Project planning participation, Project implementation participation and Project monitoring participation positively affected sustainability of women development projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that active participation in project identification processes significantly contributes to the sustainability of women development projects. Community members' deep involvement in identifying project priorities and designing implementation steps fosters a sense of ownership and relevance, ensuring projects align with community needs. These findings underscore the importance of community-driven approaches in project planning, echoing existing literature emphasizing the critical role of community involvement in achieving successful project outcomes.

The study concluded that community-driven project planning processes play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of women development projects. The high level of community participation in setting project plans, budgets, and designs indicates a strong commitment to project success and relevance. These findings emphasize the importance of stakeholder satisfaction and alignment of project objectives with community needs, consistent with previous research highlighting the positive impact of community involvement in project planning on sustainability and effectiveness.

The study concluded that ongoing community participation throughout the project lifecycle significantly contributes to the sustainability of women development projects. Extensive community engagement in project implementation activities, including construction oversight and feedback provision, reflects a deep sense of community ownership and responsibility. These findings underscore the importance of community-driven approaches in ensuring project effectiveness

and sustainability, aligning with existing literature emphasizing the pivotal role of community engagement in project implementation for achieving desired outcomes.

The study concluded that robust community engagement in project monitoring activities is essential for ensuring the sustainability of women development projects. Community members' active involvement in assessing project performance and establishing monitoring mechanisms fosters project accountability and transparency. These findings highlight the importance of community-driven monitoring processes in enhancing project effectiveness and sustainability, aligning with previous research emphasizing the role of community participation in project monitoring for achieving successful outcomes.

Recommendations of the study findings

The study suggested that project stakeholders should ensure that they promote activities that would improve the community's involvement in project identification. This may include holding of public meetings, focus group discussions, and awareness creation forums where residents are able to identify their needs and wants for purposes of project identification. In this regard, more should be done to enhance awareness by providing information about the project goals and activities to the community so that they can be in a position to understand the projects being identified. Other measures that should be taken include the promotion of capacity building as an essential step to ensure that the community members acquire skills and knowledge to participate in identification of projects. Through this way of identifying projects, stakeholders will be in a better position to have projects that are viable, realistic, and valuable to the people.

The study also recommended that stakeholders should improve on ways of enhancing the community engagement in the planning of the projects. This could be by engaging in stakeholder mapping surveys to ensure that all the interested parties are incorporated at the early stages of the

planning phase. It is imperative that meetings and consultations should be established and conducted frequently to accommodate the different views of the stakeholders and incorporate them into the project plan. There should also be capacity development interventions to ensure that the various stakeholders within the community, especially those to be affected by the project, are well equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to fully participate in the planning process and even in the implementation of the project. When it comes to project planning, increased community involvement can help identify project goals, objectives, and expected outcomes as well as improve the chances of its success and sustainability.

The study further recommended that stakeholders should promote continuous community involvement throughout the project implementation phase. This could involve encouraging community members to actively participate in project activities such as construction oversight, testing project functionality, and providing feedback on project use. Efforts should also be made to establish mechanisms for ongoing communication and collaboration between project stakeholders and community members to address any challenges or issues that may arise during implementation. Through promoting continuous community involvement in project implementation,

stakeholders can ensure that projects are effectively executed, meet community expectations, and achieve their intended outcomes.

The study lastly recommended that stakeholders should facilitate community-led project monitoring and evaluation processes. This could involve empowering community members to assess project performance, establish monitoring committees, and participate in routine tracking of project progress. Efforts should also be made to provide training and capacity-building support to community members to enhance their ability to collect, analyze, and report project data effectively. Additionally, stakeholders should promote transparency and accountability by providing regular feedback to community members on project use and measures needed to maximize project benefits. Through facilitating community-led project monitoring and evaluation, stakeholders can enhance project accountability, transparency, and ultimately, its long-term sustainability and impact.

Recommendations for Further Research

Recommendations for further research include exploring the impact of cultural and social factors on community participation in women development projects. Additionally, studying the effectiveness of alternative engagement strategies and evaluating the long-term sustainability of projects post-implementation are crucial for enhancing project.

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