INFLUENCE OF TRAINING ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY GOVERNANCE IN NAROK COUNTY, KENYA

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The conversion of the amended constitution (2010) in Kenya opened room for citizen participation by embedding participatory government as a principal of governance which binds government stakeholders; unfortunately there is improper public involvement in policy process in Narok County. Over years, Kenya has little by little shifted from federal to a decentralized or a democratic form of governance; The 47 counties in Kenya are gradually moving to such form of governance by considering public participation, while a county like Narok is not properly conducting a successful public participation for its governance. Regardless of devolution in Kenya which embraces participatory government, county government of Narok has not been properly focusing or considering it. The residents of Narok County complain of lack of consideration of their views when the county government is making any bill and when conducting a specific project. The rationale of the survey was to focus factors affecting citizen participations in county governance in Narok County. A descriptive research survey was use. A descriptive research survey was used. A population of 10,342 households was targeted. A sample size of 400 was considered using Miller and Brewer (2003) formula. A snowball sample procedure was used. The collection of data was by the use questionnaires and interview schedules tools. A pilot study was conducted in Transmara West Sub-County for the purpose of testing the instrument's validity and also reliability of the instrument. Data was analyze descriptively using SPSS and presented in percentages, frequencies and tables. The outcome of the study help county officials, administrators, law makers and even citizen in conducting a successful public participation for smooth development. From the results a higher percentage of the respondents of about 62% indicated that there was lack of coordination and communication from the county administrators for public participation. A percentage of 82% and 70% of respondent responded that there was lack of public training and poor governance respectively while. The research established that social and economic factors, training and governance influence public participation. This project recommends that the county management team and administrators should ensure that there is training and sensitization of public members, allocation of funds and practice of good governance which embraces equality, participation, democracy, transparency, accountability and efficiency.

Key words: *public participation, social factors, economic factors.*

Background to the Study

For government to be considered of democratic nature, elements of citizen involvement in the provision of views and opinion must be presence. Good government's characteristics consist of eight elements, public involvement or citizen participation or consideration of all

stakeholders being one of the key features. Policy implementation is also facilitated through the consensus driven through consideration of the members of the public's opinions. (Keiping, 2017)

Citizen participation is better understood as the process in which the members of the public express their concern and mistakes perceived from the political regime by airing their opinions and in ensuring that the government is more responsive, accountable and effective towards the implementation of policies. Public participation is a basic element in governance since it promotes development and facilitate consensus. Citizen views consideration lead to effective fulfillment of the political Agenda and enhance social, economic and political development of the society. (UNDP, 1997)

In different state across the world, county governance included, there is lack of proper and well-structured public participation since the political leaders fear being carpeted for responsiveness. They fear being brought into accountable and transparent leadership. Social constraints results from this nature of involvement due to fairness and equality that results from effective public participation. It is through this that there is need to effectively create sharing of ideas, opinions and views in any strategic plans to ensure that each stakeholder is involve in governance process.

In general, the stakeholders in governance entails but not limited to administrators, business organization/bodies, civil society, political leaders, humanitarian bodies, interested groups and members of the public. The important aspect is that the government lawmakers are expected to consider the inputs from civil society groups such as nongovernmental organization, religious bodies and even the activism groups. (World Bank, 2004)

In the world, according to the world summit which was held at Rio in 1992 resulted to the agreement for regions and multilateral bodies. The agreement was to protect and promote a sustainable environment. The declaration identified that the civil society have an important responsibility in safeguarding the environment and making it sustainable. The Rio declaration leads to the development of principle number ten which promote civil involvement in policy development process. The Rio declaration as far as public participation is concern; brought the awareness that civil society involvement should be taken into account for all stakeholders to exercise legitimacy of governance. Consideration of the opinions from the public and recognizing the media involvement in the government process for information access is very paramount (Webler, 2001).

The economic commission of the UN in 1998, lead to the declaration for the public to have an opportunity to be able to know what the government is doing and to express their opinions; and the government as an expectation to consider opinion from the members of the public. This will promote information sharing. Involvement in government policy formulation process, lead to a fair and just implementation of political agendas and as a result promotes a conducive and a sustainable environment. This is because public participation ensures that the citizen can get news relating to the environment. In the involvement process, there will be effectiveness and efficiency in governance. Consensus can be reached easily and

there will be no difficulties in administration as far as policy making and implementation is concern. UN declaration considered public administration a key element for environmental conservation and protection (World Bank, 2004).

In a state like Canada, political system is considered to emphasize citizen involvement as a way of considering their opinions in policy formulation. Any policy in Canada which is not deliberated through public participation will not be considered legally processed. In Canada, public participation is of more important than even the rule of law. It is even structured in such a way that the citizen can contribute while outside their state or while in abroad. The government of Canada has gone far even to make legislation of promoting and protecting citizen participation in governance (Aminuzzaman, 2008)

In Germany, legislation is done by several entities including the members of the public. The stakeholders that are required to contribute for a policy for example include of course the government, administrators, judiciary, association, religious leaders, business bodies and other interested groups. The process is done via a discussion which accommodates the recommendation from various parties. This of course gives awareness that participatory of public in governance is more important when a government is making any Bill. Germany legislation considers views from the members of the public through participation which is an important element of governance. The policy making process can therefore be successful because every sensitive element is considered.

In Germany, since the legislation process affects different bodies, considering their views is very important. This is through a more of discussion process. The interested bodies' affects the constituent of the bill before it is duly approved (Webler et al, 2001)

In Africa, through the African Union (AU), nations are coming up with deliberation for agreement to put in place initiative to safeguard the environment. Such deliberation can only be arrived through the consideration of opinions from various stakeholders. This gives room for the consideration of the local settlers. In issues of environment, the local people who directly affect areas of a forestation, cultivation and farming are resourceful in giving input to any policy formulation. Through such involvement, skills can be acquired easily, awareness can be conducted without any difficulties and make people be part of any policy (World Bank, 2004)

In Africa, since citizen involvement is very important, and it has been expanding regimes by regimes, all the stakeholders need to be considered. This includes the consideration of opinions from youth, women and even the vulnerable groups. African nation have been left behind for lack of embracement of the public participatory government in governance both politically and socially. Such embracement promoted to the effective implementation of the political agendas (Legal Resources Foundation Trust, 2009)

Kenya, through the constitution (2010) managed to move from non-participatory government into a citizen involvement of government of inclusion. Devolution in Kenya is aimed at promoting citizen involvement in governance through formation of county government. Public participation being the main agenda is for unity, cohesiveness and equality. Citizens

are able to air their concern during government operation and in the formulation of policies which affects their lives.

The citizen can convey their views via the representative within the county level elected as the members of county assembly and senators at the senate assembly. Devolution in Kenya lead to the decentralization of the two arms of government from national level to the county level, namely the executive and the legislation known as the county assembly. It is expected as per in the rule of law in Kenya for each Bill within the county level to be taken to the citizen through public participation for the consideration of their opinions. Any factor to cause interference of such practice will lead to illegality and hence the bill will not have been properly passed (The Constitution of Kenya 2010).

In Narok County, as in support of the Kenyan constitution 2010 Article 1, consider public participation in its governance but there is poor turn up and poor communication from the county government officials. According to the second CIDP, 2018/2019, Narok County takes consideration of the citizen views through public participation. The Bill is normally mandated to the relevant committee to organize for public participation. Narok County has Six Sub Counties formerly known as constituencies. For effectiveness and successful public participation process, the stakeholders within the county are expected to mobilize the citizen and make prior communication for the citizen to get information on matters to be discussed through sub county administrators and the local chiefs (Narok CIDP, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

Having in mind that the government is the key stakeholder or major player and actor in policy formulation and implementation, public participation or involvement in a specified ladder is important for consensus and successful development. Public development leads to rapid development, responsiveness, accountability and build unity and cohesiveness. In Kenya, government true devolution which gives room for participatory government is an element for the features excellent governance to prevail in every form of governance. There has been a lot of protest; and cases of hue and cry against the government for not effectively responding to the need of the citizens. Counties are being accused of malpractices and performance of irrelevant performance which does not have impact to the common citizen. Many research studies have been conducted but none managed to enlighten the factors influencing public participation in county governance in Narok County. It is from this deduction the gap arise that what are the factors influencing public participation in county governance in Narok County.

Literature Review

Participatory government is the kind of government in which the citizen or the public member's opinions and views concerning the national policies are taken into consideration. It is process in which the government or the stakeholders in governance take into consideration the concern of the citizen. Public participation is the taking part of all stakeholders in governance during the process of the implementation of the political agendas (Truman, 1971).

According to Fiorino (2003) successful public participation lead to mutual implementation of state policies and promotes social, economic, political and institutional development. As a result of public participation, accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness of government administrators and representatives tend to be felt. Public participation is an element towards consensus for good governance. Members of the public expect good performance from the political leaders; the political leaders on the other hand struggle to fulfill the social needs of their electorate. Public participation is also the important into creation of strategic plans for the successful identification of development priorities.

The important element to enhance participation in policy process and to enhance a fruitful outcome in any management of social issues is the building of capacity. The aim of capacity of building through designated training is purposely to build a mutual cohesion between the member of the citizen and other stakeholders. The capacity building processes expand knowledge and result to stakeholder's relationship. Capacity building will lead to recognition of each other, inclusion of the vulnerable groups and respect of individual's fundamental rights. According to Duke Thurlow (2002), good governance is the one which recognize the need of the society and the leaders fight for the rights of the electorate. The electorate should also have the knowledge of their right to impeach any political leader representing them if they may feel that their social need is not meet. Training is therefore necessary.

In many cases the political leaders tend to respond to the social need of the urban and neglecting the social need of the citizen living in rural areas. The opinions from the people from the rural vicinities are very paramount in any policy formation and project fulfillment strategies.

According to Walzer and Hamm (2012), for the citizen inclusion and for the fruitful fulfillment of the political Agendas in any government regime, strategic plan should be very clear. Development and meeting of the social need of the society is the presence of well-structured plans. One of the plans is public participation, training and seminars, allocation of adequate budget, considering of the youth, female and vulnerable group.

If there is discrimination or inclusion of other stakeholders and consideration of other social group reaching considered will be very difficult decision will be poor and conflict may result.

According to Kumar (2002), successful decision making process or policy formulation consensus is the consideration of the civil society. This involves the improvement of government organization, humanitarian bodies, and activism groups among others. There should be ladder   of communication in what should take place and how generally expert opinion should be considered. This mean that public administrators should be very organized and administers of information .Consensus can be easily reached for the implementation of policies, if the concern stakeholders are included; their views are taken into consideration. In the administrative system, the opinions from the members of the public are very crucial and consider legitimate for policy processes. Proper involvement of the public views will better the operation of the policy –makers. For the purpose of all of these, training, education or capacity building is very essential.

According to Nampila (2005), the society comprises of various stakeholders with varying opinions in the community, a given portion may possess certain interest which is not the same with the interest of others. It is therefore very beneficial to ensure that the public members from the rural exercise their rights to develop in their positions and to improve livelihoods. The consideration will minimize exclusion, discrimination and enhance rapid improvement of the society (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008)

Within the society the implementation or the formation of a new project will lead to divisions according to the opinion differences. A given portion of the society will oppose and another part of the society population may join hand, and the other may become undecided .The undecided portion need to be advised to become the supporters. If proper plans are not put in place, they will also reject. The only strategy that can help to achieve this is through education and public participation (Community Development Society, 2009)

According to Kumar (2002), public participation wants to be done at the start of the course of action formulation not at the middle or at the implementation phase. There should be proper communication for mutual dialogue for result of positive outcomes. Public participation should not be sudden or quick to prevent the exhaustion of the relevant ideas. Engagement at the start will minimize tension, will build cohesion and lead to consensus. The public administrators are expected to convey the important update for public awareness. There is danger if the community is not communicated properly, speculation will be high and negative rumors can lead to conflicts. There should be proper information to the public, that their opinions are highly considered in the policy formulation; at the same time the public should be given official feedback.

According to Kakumba and Nsingo (2008), the public members should exercise their rights to communicate their view on policies that influence or that impact to their livelihoods. The electorate has to exercise political rights as in the constitution concerning the accountability of their political elite. The public's professionalism, skills, knowledge and ideas should be considered essential, because the government policies have a direct impact to the citizen lives. Capacity building and training is very important to empower the citizen to communicate their opinion without fear or favour, even if the public administrators or powerful individual are presence in the public participation forum.

According to Oakley and Marsden (1991), in situation where public participation does not affect the government plans, then it is not an important way for the agenda formulation or implementation. The opinions should be considered important and must be capture the interest of the society .public participation should not just be a process for media purposes, but the data or input from the public participation forum should be considered. The further public participation is considered in projects the higher there will be unity, cohesion and consensus is achieved.

According to the World Bank (1996), in order to get the inputs from the vulnerable groups, it means you must work together in association and have a better interaction with them. You must have information of their needs, the challenges facing them, their position within the

society and their constitution and fundamental rights. The poor have the rights to be heard, to be access justice and to participate in public participation. Training and education of these rights and entitlement should be done to empower development and the achievement of the MDGS.

Methodology

According to Brinker (2006) the process of obtaining the sample size/sub-section of the target population, is the step by step selection of the portion of the bigger population. In order to study better a given population, it is good to obtain a sample or a small size to present the larger population (Lind et al, 2008). The process of obtaining the sample is determine by the nature of the population, the information to be collected, the geographical features, the type of data collection among other factors. Therefore, this research project tried to focus to respondent who are key players in public participation; including ward administrators, political leaders, social leaders, county officials, business people and spiritual leaders across all the six sub counties in Narok County. The research in this survey investigated a sample size of 400 household by using Miller and Brewer (2003) formula as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N\grave{}(e)2}$$

$$Where; n = sample\ size$$
$$N = population\ size = 103,421\ households$$

e= is the margin error/level of precision at 5 per cent (assumed =5percent)

$$Therefore; n = \frac{103,421}{1 + 103421\ (0.05)^2}$$

$$\boldsymbol{n = 400}$$

The researcher only used the two instruments for reliability and validity of information. According to Smith (1997) it is not appropriate to use several instruments. The use of questionnaires and schedule interviews facilitate the validity and reliability of data (Schofield, 1996).

The choice of instrument was guided by how well it satisfied the need of the research by some absolute standard. The researcher considered questionnaires for the collection of data. It was used because a large sample of the respondents was easily reached. It also gave a well thought out answer as the respondents had adequate time with the questionnaires. The questionnaires comprised the use of both structured and unstructured questions in a standardized form that was uniform for all respondents.

According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2006), close ended questions enhance constituency of response across respondents. They may however limit the breadth and depth of responses.

Open-ended questions invite personal comments from respondents therefore catch the authenticity, richness and responses (Cohen et al, 2000).

Since the data that was collected were qualitative and quantitative in nature, the researcher used of descriptive analysis. According to Triola (2008), descriptive analysis is very appropriate because it is simple to present the result by use of graphs, tables, charts and polygons.

Results

As stated earlier, training factor was one of the objective of this research project. The researcher was to investigate whether training influence public participation. The following findings was gathered from the respondents on how training influence public participation.
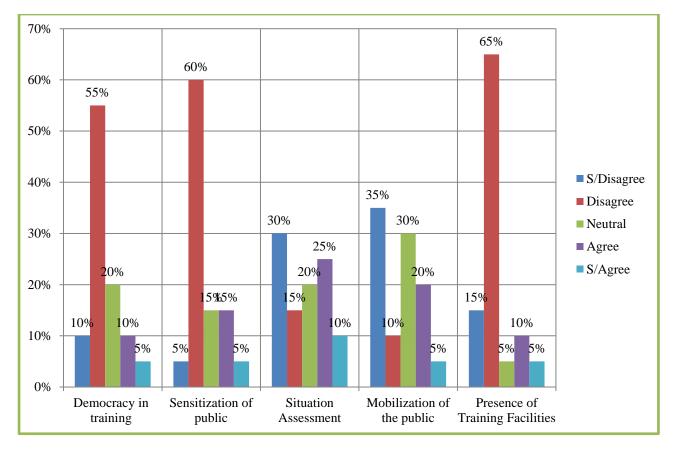
Table 1: Democracy, Sensitization, Situation Assessment and Mobilization.

Training Factors	SD		D		N		A		SA		TOTAL	
Democracy in Training	32	10%	176	55%	64	20%	32	10%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
Sensitization of the public	16	5%	192	60%	48	15%	48	15%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
Situation Assessment about need of Public Training	96	30%	48	15%	64	20%	80	25%	32	10%	**320**	**100**
Mobilization of the public	112	35%	32	10%	96	30%	64	20%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
Presence Training facilities	48	15%	208	65%	16	5%	32	10%	16	5%	**320**	**100**

Source: Field Data (2020)

From table 1 above and figure 4.8 below, the following responses were collected, for democracy in training, majority have disagreed at 55%, 10% had strongly disagreed, 20% were neutral, 10% have agreed that there was democracy in training stakeholders about public participation . 5% were on the side of agreeing that there is democracy in training public members about public participation within the Narok County. This therefore proved that there was no democracy in training the members of the public about the essential element of governance. From the data stated above and below 10% of the respondents had strongly disagreed that there was democracy in training.

Figure1: Democracy, Sensitization, Situation Assessment and Mobilization.
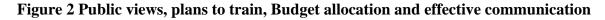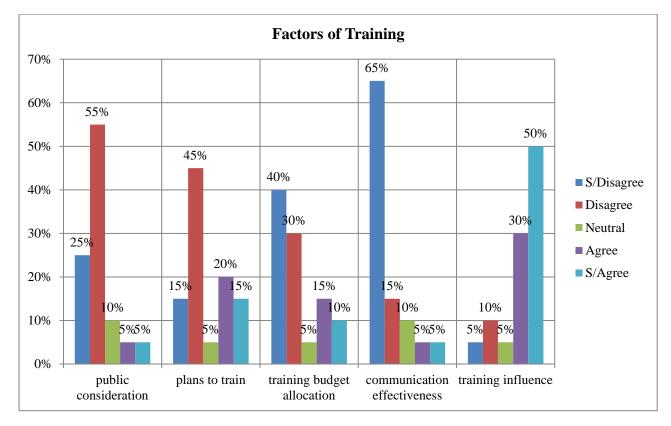
Source: Field Data (2020)

From figure 1 above and figure 1 above, respondents were asked to indicate how training influence public participation. 60% disagreed that there was sensitization of the public. 5% had strongly disagreed, 15% were neutral, 15% agreed and 5% strongly disagreed. On the practice of situation assessment, majority strongly disagreed at 30%, 15% disagreed, 20% were neutral, 25% agreed and 10% strongly agreed. For the mobilization of the public members and other stakeholders concerning public participation, majority disagreed at 35%, those who disagreed were 10%, 30% were neutral, 20% agreed and 5% strongly agreed that the county government conducts public mobilization about public participation. For the purpose of the training facilities within the County, majority of the respondents indicated that there were no training facilities by disagreeing at 65% and strongly disagreeing at 15%. Only 10% agreed and 5% were neutral and 5% strongly agreed.

Table 2: Public views, plans to train, Budget allocation and effective communication

Training Factors	SD		D		N		A		SA		TOTAL	
Consideration of public views on training	80	25%	176	55%	32	10%	16	5%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
Plans to train	48	15%	144	45%	16	5%	64	20%	48	15%	**320**	**100**
Budget allocation for training	128	40%	96	30%	16	5%	48	15%	32	10%	**320**	**100**
Effective communication about training	208	65%	48	15%	32	10%	16	5%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
Whether training influence public participation	16	5%	32	10%	16	5%	96	30%	160	50%	**320**	**100**

Source: Field Data (2020)

Figure 2 Public views, plans to train, Budget allocation and effective communication

Source: Field Data (2020)

From table 2 and figure 2, respondents were further asked to give their responses on the above elements of training within the county for public participation. From the data collected,

respondent asked if the county government consider the public views about training of the public and 55% disagreed that the county government does not consider and even 25% to strongly disagree. 10% were neutral and both agree and strongly disagree were at 5%. On the issue of government having plans to train the public, 45% disagreed. 15% strongly disagreed, 5% were neutral, 20% Agreed and only 15% strongly agreed. On the factor that the government allocated budget for training, 40% of the respondent strongly disagreed. 30% disagreed, 5% were neutral, only 15% agreed and 10 strongly disagreed. For the effective communication about training, 65% of the respondents strongly disagreed that there is effective communication. 15% disagreed, 10% were neutral and 5% strongly agreed and agreed respectively. Another factor was whether training can influence public participation, 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that training can influence public participation. 30% also agreed and 5% were neutral. 10% disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed.
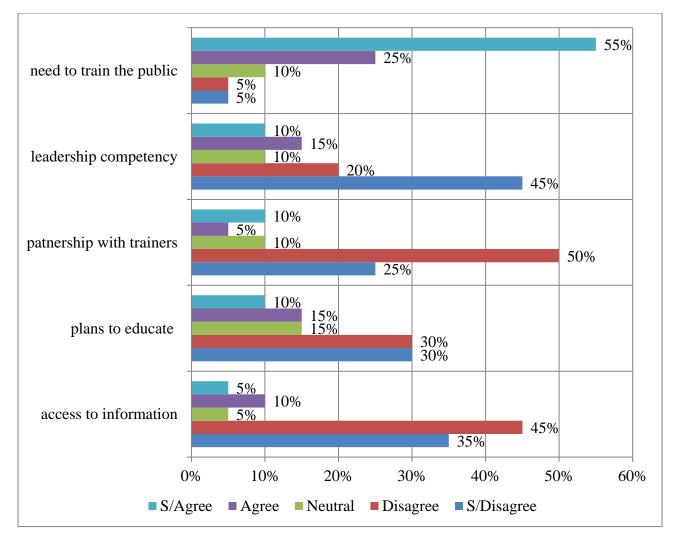
Table 3: Access to information, plans to educate, partnership, Leadership competency and need to train

Training Factors	SD		D		N		A		SA		TOTAL	
Access to information	112	35%	144	45%	16	5%	32	10%	16	5%	**320**	**100**
plans to educate business people	96	30%	96	30%	48	15%	48	15%	32	10%	**320**	**100**
partnership with trainers	80	25%	160	50%	32	10%	16	5%	32	10%	**320**	**100**
leadership competency	144	45%	64	20%	32	10%	48	15%	32	10%	**320**	**100**
need to train the public	16	5%	16	5%	32	10%	80	25%	176	55%	**320**	**100**

Source: Field Data (2020)

Figure 3: Access to information, plans to educate, partnership, leadership competency and need to train

Source: Field Data (2020)

The researcher asked respondents to further response whether there was need to train the public, whether there was leadership competency, partnership with trainers, plans to educate and whether there was access to information about training individuals about public participation as in table 3 and 3 above. For the need to train the public 55% strongly agreed that there is need to train, 25 agreed, 10% were neutral, 5% strongly disagreed and 5% also disagreed. For leadership competency, 45% strongly disagreed that there was no leadership competency and 20% disagreed. 10% were neutral, 15% agreed and 10% strongly disagreed. For the case of whether there was partnership with trainers, 25% strongly disagreed and 50% disagreed that there was no partnership. 10% were neutral. 5% agreed and 10% strongly agreed. For plans to educate 30% strongly disagreed and 30% disagreed that there was no plans to educate. Another factor was whether there was access of information about public participation, 35% strongly disagreed and 40% disagreed that there was no access to information.

Extent training influence public participation

Table 4: Extent training influence public participation

Extent	Response	Percentage
Greater Extent	144	45
Some Extent	80	25
Neutral	48	15
Little Extent	32	10
Very Little Extent	16	5
Total	**320**	**100**

Source: Field Data (2020)

Figure 4: Extent training influence public participation

Source: Field Data (2020)

From the above data in Table 4.11 and Figure 4.11 above, majority of the respondents responded that training factor influence public participation at a greater extent of 45% followed by some extent at 25%. 25% were neutral and only 10% responded to be little extent and 5% to very little.

Conclusion

The conclusion made here is that when the citizen are trained, sensitized and mobilized, the process of public participation will be effective. Lack of training leads to a disorganized governance and citizen will lack awareness of their fundamental rights in governance.

Training will enable them to exercise their role, participate in governance and even have a voice. The government needs to put plans to train the public and educate them and also boosting campaigns. Information sharing is critical here together with training facilities.

The study made conclusion here that social factors within the community are key element in governance as far as public participation was concern. All forms of malpractices including corruption should be minimized. There should be gender balance, inclusion without any form of discrimination, equality and equity in running government operations. Public consideration was a factor of the social need in public participation. The society need to be provided with the social need to better their activities including their participation in policy development.

The conclusion made was that for the success of anything, financial viability and accountability must be at the fore frond. The economic factors like proper budgeting and creation of jobs was crucial. Projects implementation should be sustainable and should be monitored enough. Policy formulation and strategies are needed to be transparent; what matters a lot were budgeting and its accountability.

Finally, this study concluded that form of governance and its nature determine effectiveness of public participation. A participatory and democratic form of government promotes it. Good governance is shaped by transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, equality, equity, leaders competency, fairness, inclusion and but not limited to a corruption free government. Good government adheres to the consideration of span opinions from its citizen or electorate.

Recommendation

This study recommended to this variable that training should be conducted to the citizen to make then aware of their fundamental rights politically and in government operations. Plans should be put in place to sensitize the public and mobilization too. Training facilities and facilitators should be built and arranged respectively. Training should be accompanied with provision of information by making information about public participation accessible and available. The government of Narok should budget allocation for public training, mobilization and sensitization.

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