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FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS: A CASE OF KINANGOP WIND PARK IN MAGUMU, NYANDARUA COUNTY KENYA

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Abstract: **This study sought to establish the factors influencing community participation in implementation of public projects in rural areas, a case of Kinangop wind park project in Magumu (Nyandarua) county. The study found out that the representation of the community members in public projects was adequate because over 80.0% of the residents were involved in the project through planning meetings, through determining the affected individuals, financial contribution to the project and through monitoring and evaluation thus influencing decision making. Majority of the respondents asserted that good governance contributed to project continuity and sustainability to a large extent through proper management of resources and elimination of corruption in project implementation. The researcher recommends to those in authority to enhance citizen participation in projects as an avenue for promoting the success of project implementation as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution. This research has presented the results of the analysis of the factors that influence community participation in implementation of public projects in rural areas as well as the key objectives of the study. From these findings, the researcher recommends that future researchers should consider researching on other projects in the country apart from the Kinangop Wind Park project to understand why most projects are in jeopardy.**

Keywords: **Factors, Implemetations, Public Projects.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study:

Development projects recommended under vision 2030 will increase demand on Kenya energy supply currently, its energy costs are higher than those of her competitors. The country is geared towards generating more energy at optimum cost and increase efficiency in consumption. The government is committed to continued institutional reform in the energy sector including a strong regulatory framework encouraging more private generators of power and separating generation from distribution. New sources of energy are founded through exploitation of geothermal power, coal, renewable energy sources and connecting Kenya to energy-surplus throughout counties in the region.

Kinangop Wind Park (KWP) was launched in 2004 as a joint venture between Ecogen Wind Farms and Kengen. In January, 2008 Aeolus Kenya acquired the rights to develop the project. It consisted of setting up 38 GE energy wind turbines that were designed to have a lifetime of twenty years. The operation and maintenance of the entire project was to be outsourced from General Electric (GE) under the full service agreement. In November 2013, the African infrastructure Investment Fund 2 (AJIF2) and Norfund took over the ownership of KWP leaving Aeolus Kenya as the project development company. The KWP was valued at USD 150 Million, 50% of this in equity and the rest in debt.

The KWP was expected to be completed in mid-2015 and would have a capacity to serve over 150,000 households. In addition to power generation, the project would have reduced 847,252 tons of carbon dioxide in the environment during its first 7 years of operation. Wind energy is a renewable electricity production from converting the kinetic energy of moving air masses into electricity. When compared to other renewable energy sources, such as solar, wave and geothermal power, wind power is a relatively cheap source of renewable energy. Wind power installations cost 3.5 times less per Watt than PV installations and operate for 12-16 hours at good sites as opposed to 5-6 hours for PV systems (KIPRA, 2009).

Therefore, the promotion of renewable energy by a number of governments has led to a strong growth of wind power in the respective countries. Wind energy has experienced rapid growth since the 1990's. The global installed capacity increased by 44 GW in 2012 to 282 GW (GWEC, 2013). Kenya is located within the equatorial region where wind speeds are lower compared to those of higher latitude regions. However, specific parts of Kenya have significant wind resources throughout the year due to the complex topographical features and varying nature of surfaces (Mukabana, 1992). Parts of Nairobi, Rift Valley, Eastern North Eastern and Coast Provinces have wind potential as high as 346 W/m2 (GoK, 2011). Ever since the introduction of feed in tariff in 2007, the wind-power sector has attracted investors set on exploiting the country's huge potential.

One-wind generators was installed in Marsabit generating the 200kW wind turbine. It was later decommissioned in 2006, and replaced with two wind turbines of 250kW each at a total cost of Shs.198 million (KPLC, 2012). Feasibility is ongoing for an additional 150 MW capacity of wind generators to the grid (Ken-Gen, 2011). Ngong wind farm is located 22km southwest of Nairobi, is the only wind farm connected to the grid. (KenGen, 2011). The first phase was commissioned in 1993 as a donation from the Belgian Government. At the time Ngong, was composed of two wind turbines with capacities of 0.15MW and 0.2MW. This summed up to an installed capacity of 0.35MW. The two wind turbines have since been decommissioned. The second phase was commissioned in August 2009 to a capacity of 5.1 MW (KPLC, 2011/2012).

The layout of the second phase of Ngong wind farm is powered by six Vestas V52 wind turbines producing a total of 5.1MW (0.3% installed capacity) (KenGen, 2011). A feasibility analysis conducted done by KenGen using 14 years data confirmed that the Ngong site was capable of generating up to 14.9 GWh of energy per annum on average from a 5.1MW wind farm (KenGen, 2011). The turbines (doubly fed asynchronous type) have hub heights of 50 meters and rotor diameters of 52 m. The turbines are networked to the Ngong wind substation and control via underground cabling. The Ngong wind farm is directly connected to the wider 66kV distribution network within Nairobi. Wind power varies over time, mainly under the influence of meteorological fluctuations. The variations occur on all time scales: seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, seasons and years. Understanding these variations and their predictability is of key importance for the integration and optimal utilization of wind in the power system.

In this study, the basic factors affecting public participation in implementation of the project will be assessed taking into account various forms of participation applicable. These factors directly determine the success of the energy project at Magumu wind park project.

A comparison between the actual to simulated data will be undertaken to validate the model applicability to future scenarios on the aspects of public participation and its dynamics. In order to avoid unnecessary up scaling of wind production data an appropriate number of wind turbine matching a specified wind farm size will be used with information generated from public participation forums. The impact of the wind variability may range from negligible to significant depending on the penetration levels and intermittency of the wind resource. Variations in wind plant output may adversely affect grid reliability and increase the operating costs of the system as a whole. To compensate for these variations, additional generation capacity is needed to provide regulation or set aside as reserves. The time-varying patterns of the site's wind power production has to be taken into consideration while determining the reserve requirement. Consequently, the extra reserve requirement in each site will be quantified both in distinctiveness and additively to cover about 99% of the mismatches between wind projects and public participation contribution to success of the projects.

Statement of the problem:

Globally there has been a move towards green energy. There is widespread popular support for using renewable energy particularly wind, which provide electricity, without giving rise to any carbon dioxide. Kenya's renewable energy resources include solar energy wind power geothermal energy and biomass. It also has the ability to manufacture the relatively labour intensive system that harnesses the said resources. In rural areas transmission and distribution of energy generated from fossil fuels is difficulty and expensive hence leading to producing from cheaper viable alternatives.

The exploitation of wind energy involves encroaching into private land which is not demarcated. In Kenya many areas identified feasible for wind power generation are either on community or private land. Most efforts made to exploit wind energy has encountered a lot of conflicts associated with minimal or unstructured community participation it's not clear to what extent the local communities have been involved in the design and the implementation of public or private projects in many rural areas. The study seeks to address the above.

The project wind firm was expected to add 60.8 megawatts (MW) to the national grid from 38 turbines. Each was projected to have an output of 1.6 MW touted as the first major Independent Power Produce (IPP) wind farm in the country. The facility was to be set up of Iberbola Energy with General Electric (GE) providing wind turbines. The wind farm project, whose ground breaking was held in early 2013 failed to take off following fierce oppositions from local politicians and residents.

A total of 38 farmers had signed a lease with KWP with each farmer being entitled to Ksh 100,000 every year. Some farmers were paid Ksh.500, 000 for the first year term. As soon as KWP moved its equipment to the firm's premises, farmers started demanding higher compensation disrupting a project that was set to come online in the middle of 2015.

The following months of negotiations, the project received local support after KWP promised the affected residents a series of goodies including Ksh 270 Million fund for community projects in the affected locations (Magumu). KWP agreed to start fresh negotiations with the affected households on a case by case basis. The company was to pay an additional Kshs 2 Million to the farmers who were earlier paid Ksh 500,000.

The deal was however short lived as the residents later took to the roads to complain about the future environmental impact from the plant. This has led to extensive delay and losses to private investors. All the challenges identified outline the challenges in involving the local community in decision making. There is a challenge in designing the methodology for public participation and ensuring full support from the local residents and this study seeks to explore the factors leading to lack of a well-structured framework for involving the public.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Participation Theories:

Participation theory represents a move from the global, spatial top-down strategies that dominated early development initiatives to more locally sensitive methodologies. Participation is heavily influenced by development theories. Acknowledgement of participation grew out of the realization that the world's poor have actually suffered as a result of development and that everyone needs to be involved in development decisions, implementation and benefits. Limitations of the state in top-down conservation practices were identified and popular participation emphasized as a remedy due to the observation of the uniqueness of an individual as an entity who is capable of making unique contributions to decision making.

(Claridge, 2004) Participation theories criticized the modernization theory on the ground that it promoted a top- down ethnocentric and paternalistic view of development. Current development efforts focus on 'bottom up' planning, 'people centered development' and the view that ordinary

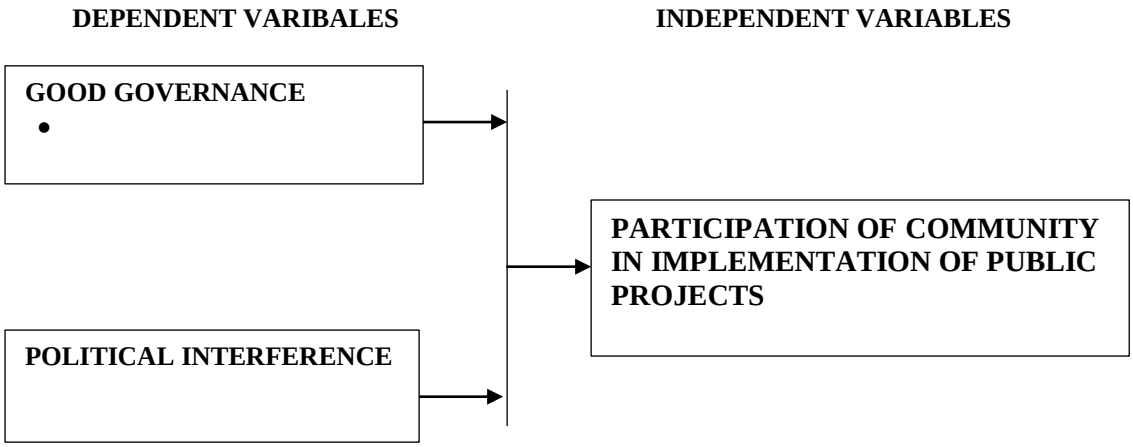
people have the capacity to manage their own development. Participatory theory encourages the involvement of all stakeholders in the process of development. (Fitano, 2003) This approach views development as a process which focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community and emphasizes concept such as capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance. In the context of natural resource management, devolved greater power to village

communities is now widely accepted as an institutional imperative by governments, international agencies and NGOs.

Amstein's theory of participation:

Successful implementation of a community project is significant in achieving development agenda in any country. Amsteins (1) ladder of participation theory was preferred to inform the study. The theory recognizes that there are different levels of participation in any management of a project. These levels include manipulation therapy of citizens through consultation and the genuine participation. Only at the genuine participation do we have the levels of participation in which citizens have a considerable measure of control. The use of a ladder also implies that more control is always better than less control. However the community may not always desire increased control because it leads to failure of community based projects.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:



Gaps in literature reviewed:

The competitive pressure unleashed by the process of globalization and project sustainability is driving implementation of projects in increasingly large numbers; the primary purpose of implementing projects is to offer services to the community in a rapidly changing and highly competitive environment. Organizations that implement the strategy of operational excellence restructure their delivery processes to focus on efficiency and reliability, and use state-of-the-art project structures that emphasize integration and low-cost transactions in service delivery. According to (Armstrong, 2005) organizations are trying to become more competitive and efficient by incorporating the aspect of public participation in every stage of a project.

Having an inclusive policy in project implementation is designed to turn weaknesses in its internal environment into strengths and in-turn use these strengths to counter threats in its external environment when delivering services to the community. However, project implementation is a complex and difficult process that can potentially reap enormous benefits for successful organizations or be disastrous for those organizations that fail to manage the implementation process. (Nicolaou, 2004) reiterates that far from being the magic ingredient which allows operations to fully integrate all their decision making processes, public participation is regarded by some as one of the most expensive ways of getting zero or even negative return on investment

Many organizations underestimate the effort, cost and strain which public participation inflicts upon the organization. The complexity of public participation in projects is easily misjudged and the consequences are potentially disastrous. Public participation is strenuous, complex, delicate process often accompanied by behavioral and systemic challenges in form of resistance to change, non-supportive culture, structure misalignment, lack of expertize, communication hurdles, low community commitment, poor management of participants, poor allocation of resources and inadequate procedural plans. All these challenges impact the process. The above challenges need to be identified and dealt with for the strategy to work as intended.

Due to contextual, sectorial and managerial differences among projects studied; lessons drawn from the above studies on public participation challenges cannot be used gainfully to explain public participation challenges faced in Kinangop wind park in Magumu, nyandarua county case. An empirical study need to be conducted on Kinangop Wind Park in Magumu, Nyandarua County to point out challenges of public participation in the project.

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction:

This chapter reports on the results of the analysis of data collected from the citizens of Magumu area in Nyandarua County. The study aimed at establishing the factors that influence community participation in implementation of public projects in rural areas. The study further presents the results of the major objectives of the study. These objectives included to examine the effects of decision making on community participation, to examine the relationship between community participation and project implementation; to establish the community perceived benefits from the project

implementation and to establish effects of development in community participation. The study was conducted in Magumu, Nyandarua County on the Kinangop Wind Park Project as the case study. This chapter further details the demographic composition of the respondents who participated in the filling of the questionnaire. These findings are discussed as follows:

Response Rate:

The research targeted a sample size of 50 respondents but only 46 respondents who were accessible and willing filled the questionnaires. However this was sufficient number because it conforms to the research standards. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) stipulated that a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and above is excellent.

Demographic Composition of the respondents:

This section of the study gives the demographic characteristics of the respondents including their gender, age, level of education and occupation. These features are vital in explaining the factors that influence community participation in implementation of public projects in rural area. It is worthy to note that the questionnaires were administered to the residents of Magumu area during data collection.

Gender and Age Distribution of the respondents:

The study revealed that out of the 46 respondents 17(37.0%) were female and 29(63%) were male. This implies equality and fairness in administering of the questionnaire and it indeed conforms to the questionnaires and it indeed conforms to the constitutional requirements and values especially on gender equality.

The majority of the respondents 20(43.5%) were between 41-50 years, same as the ones between 31-40 years who were 20(43.5%). Three (6.5%) of the respondents were below 30 years and only one respondents (2.2%) was 51 years and above. However, two respondents (43%) did not fill their age bracket. These findings show that the research was conducted from adult respondents who understood the concept that was being researched on. Besides, these adults gave true information as per what they have been observing in their lifetime on project implementation.

Understanding and awareness about public projects:

This part underscores the extent of awareness of the citizens in Magumu area about Kinangop Wind Park Project. Besides, study sought to understand how the residents of this area came to learn about the project not turning a blind eye on the kind of stakeholders the residents are in the Kinangop Wind Park Project.

Awareness about the Kinangop Wind Park Project:

The study sought to understand if the residents of Magumu, Nyandarua County were aware that Kinangop Wind Park Project existed in their locality. Out of a sample of 46 residents, 42 respondents (91.3%) were aware of the existence of Kinangop Wind Park Project but 3 respondents (6.5%) were not aware. On the other hand, one respondent (2.2%) did not respond to this question. This analysis portends that majority of the residents in Nyandarua County specifically Magumu area know about the project. It also connotes that some of these residents have associated themselves with issues pertaining to the project. Table 1 below shows the level of awareness of the respondents about the existence of Kinangop Wind Park Project:

Level of awareness of project existence by the respondents:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Missing	1	2.2	2.2	2.2
	Yes	42	91.3	91.3	93.5
	No	3	6.5	6.5	100.0
	Total	46	100.0	100.0	

When interrogated about how the respondents came to learn about the existence of the project, majority of the respondents 35(76.1%) claimed to have learnt about the project from public barazas (meetings). However, 6(13.0 %) of the respondents (n=46) had known the Kinangop Wind Park Project through adverts/ posters/ mass media while 4(8.7%) of the respondents had learnt of the project through members of the committee. Only one (2.2%) respondent had learnt about the project from other sources other than the aforementioned ones. It is indeed beyond any reasonable doubts that the public barazas played a critical role in sensitizing the residents of Magumu area about government business and projects. This also reflects the mutual understanding that exists between these residents and their administration. Therefore, government can use this mutual understanding to communicate its policies and projects to the people of Magumu through public barazas.

Kind of stakeholder in the project:

The study targeted to establish the kind of stakeholder the respondents were in the Kinangop Wind Park Project so as to understand the extent to which their position as stakeholders influenced the implementation of the project. Out of 46 respondents, 33(71.7%) of the respondents participated as community members; 7(15.2%) of the respondents participated in the Kinangop project as local administrators; 3(6.5%) of the respondents were project sponsors whereas other 3(6.5%) of the respondents participated as the developing authority in this project. This summary is shown in below.

This analysis shows that majority of the respondents are just community members whose influence in the project implementation is meager. It can also be interpreted that the input of the community members in most of the projects is represented because only 6.5% of the respondents are granted the opportunity to use their resources in the project as sponsors. Therefore, it is evident that local resources are not well mobilized for the implementation of public projects. It can also be deduced that low involvement in the project implementation leads to inefficiency and poor decision making in the overall management of the project.

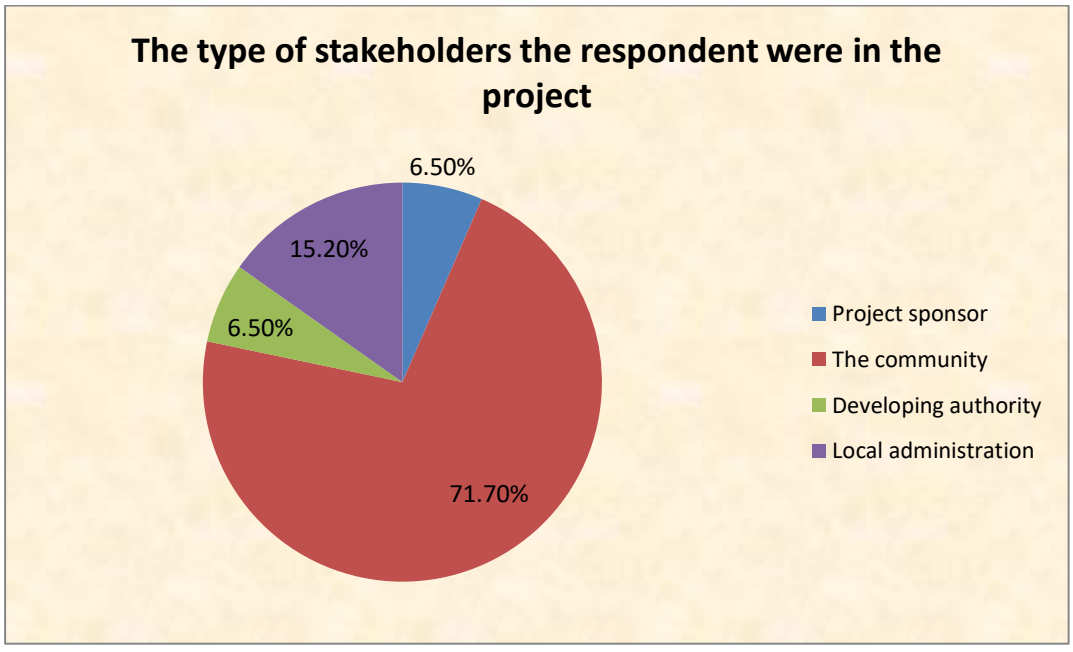


Figure above: Pie-chart showing the stakeholders of the project

Community involvement in project implementation:

The study aimed at establishing the extent to which the community is involved in the project implementation of Kinangop Wind Park Project and the different ways the community participate in project implementation. Out of the 46 respondents, the majority 41(89.1%) of the respondents agreed that the community is involved during project implementation while 4 (8.7%) of the respondents disagreed. Furthermore, 1(2.2%) of the respondents did not respond to this question. It can therefore be derived from this that the community is consulted to a large extent during implementation. Besides, the rich skills and knowledge of the locals is utilized in initiating brilliant ideas about project implementation of Kinangop Wind Park Project. Table below represents the extent to which the respondents were aware of community involvement in the project implementation?

Table below Respondents knowledge on involvement of the community in project implementation

Is the community involved during project implementation					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Missing	1	2.2	2.2	2.2
	Yes	41	89.1	89.1	91.3
	No	4	8.7	8.7	100.0
	Total	46	100.0	100.0	

When interrogated further on how the community was being involved, majority of the respondents (39.2%) felt that the community is involved through planning meetings; (34.8%) of the respondents (n=46) claimed that the community is involved through determining the affected individuals; (4.3%) of the respondents had the view that the community is involved through financial contribution while 2.2% of the respondents alluded that the community is involved in terms of monitoring and evaluation. Only 4.3% of the respondents who had earlier claimed that the community is involved in project implementation did not respond to this part.

This analysis illustrates that the community plays a key role in the organization of meetings for project implementation thus valuing the importance of ideas from the locals. Moreover, it reveals that initiators of the project have acquired legitimacy from the locals thus reducing the chances of resistance from the community during project implementation. The bar-graph in figure 4 illustrates the summary of this variable.

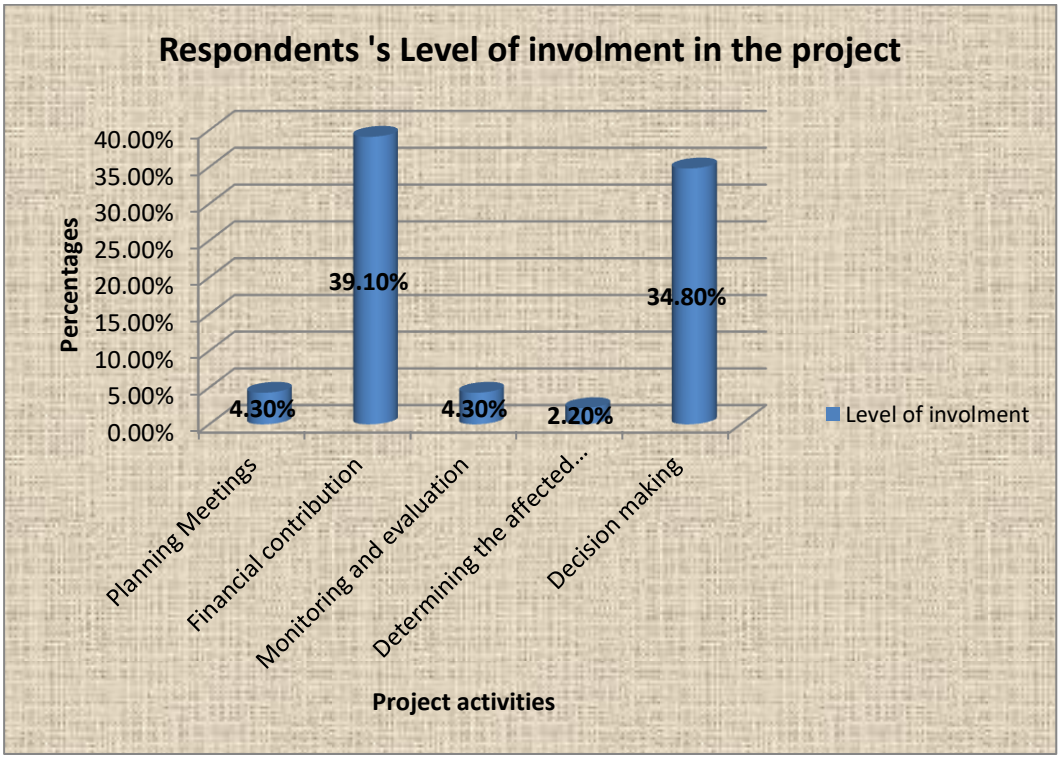


Figure above Respondents' level of participation in the project

The community is also widely involved in the project implementation when determining the affected individuals implying that the human well- being is given priority by the project initiators and implementers. Thus, it is likely that the Kinangop Wind Park Project recognizes corporate social responsibility (CSR) to the locals of that place through a number of ways including but not limited to human health, social well- being through clean air among other practices.

Causes of delay in project implementation:

The research sought to investigate the underlying causes of delay in project implementation using Kinangop Wind Park Project as the case study. The research worked to test to what extent a number of factors led to delay in project implementation. These factors being researched on were: the lack of cooperation from the excluded groups of people; political interference and exploitative law leases.

From a sample size of 46 respondents, majority 28(60.9%) of them asserted that delays in project implementation was being caused by political interference. Fifteen (32.6%) of the respondents were of the view that delays in project implementation was due to lack of cooperation from the excluded groups of people while 2(4.3%) of the respondents claimed that delay in project implementation was due to exploitative leases. Only 1(2.2%) of the respondents did not respond to this question.

From a critical understanding of this analysis, it is evident that most projects in Magumu area are delayed by the politicians who interfere with the implementation to these projects. Political interference is thus a hindrance to the development that would have resulted from the project implementation. Therefore, politicians should refrain from interfering with issues of projects so that the projects can be completed on time. The excluded groups of people should also put aside their differences for the success of the projects since their excluded input has led to delay in project implementation as evident in the analysis of the study conducted.

Effect of good governance on project continuity and sustainability:

The study sought to understand to what extent good governance of project continuity and sustainability by rating the opinion of the respondents on four - point scale ranging from low to very high. The research showed that 24(52.2%) of the respondents had the view that the effect of good governance on project continuity and sustainability was moderate, 8(17.4%) of the respondents were of the view that it was high; 5(10.9%) of the respondents claimed that it was very high while 7(15.2%) of the respondents did not answer this part of their questionnaire. This information is presented in the table below

Table below: Effects of good governance in project sustainability

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Missing	2	4.3	4.3	4.3
Low	7	15.2	15.2	19.6
Moderate	24	52.2	52.2	71.7
High	8	17.4	17.4	89.1
Very high	5	10.9	10.9	100.0
Total	46	100.0	100.0	

This analysis explicates that if though good governance does not affect project continuity and sustainability at very large extent, over 80% of the respondents that agreed that good governance has substantial influence on project continuity and sustainability. This implies that the way government that is overseeing the whole project implementation determines the success or failure of the project.

Effect of community participation on project continuity and sustainability:

The study focused on finding out the extent to which community participation affect project continuity and sustainability. The analysis was based on four-point scale of analysis ranging from low to very high. The study revealed that community participation affected project continuity and sustainability by very high extent. That is by 56.5% followed by those who viewed its effect as high 19.6% then 4(8.7%) of the respondents had the view that the effect was moderate. However, 3(6.5%) of the respondents viewed the effect to be low. Only 4(8.7%) of the respondents (n=46) did not respond to this question.

Underlying the above analysis is the assumption that community participation actually wields great influence on projects. Therefore, lack of adequate cooperation from the community might jeopardize project continuity and sustainability but if adequate cooperation/participation from the community is enhanced then the prospects of project continuity and sustainability will be kept alive.

Effect of political influence on project continuity and sustainability:

The research was conducted to find out the extent to which political influence affected project continuity and sustainability and overall interplay on the community participation on project implementation. It was noted that 21(45.7%) of the respondents (n=46) had the view that political influence affect project continuity and sustainability to a high extent. Moreover, other 15(32.6%) of the respondents thought of the effect of being very high; 4 (8.7%) of the respondents thought of the effect to be moderate while 3(6.5%) of the respondents viewed the effect to be low. Only other 3(6.5%) of the respondents did not answer this part of their questionnaires.

It can be deduced from the findings that only less than 10% of the respondents refuted the viability of the effect of political influence on project continuity and sustainability implying that many of the respondents concurred with the important influence of politics on project continuity and sustainability. It is possible that political influence felt in a number of ways including manipulation of the members of committees of the projects, mobilizing the citizens about projects and even funding the projects so as to earn loyalty from citizens. This explains why political influence affects project continuity and sustainability so immensely.

4. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of findings:

This chapter presents the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendation of the study based on the results of the analysis on the factors influencing community participation in implementation of public projects in rural areas specifically Kinangop wind park project at Magumu in Nyandarua County.

The study was conducted on adult male and female respondents with adequate understanding of public projects. In addition, most of the respondents had achieved secondary education hence able to make informed contributions to the research during data analysis. The study found out that majority of the residents were involved with occupations that kept them busy revealing that they were also willing to participate in public projects. Public barazas (meetings) had played a critical role making the community members to be aware of the ongoing public projects in their areas of residence. Besides, the research revealed that committee members of the Kinangop wind park project also played an important role informing the residents about the project.

The findings also revealed that about 92.0% of the residents were aware of the existence of Kinangop Wind Park project which portrays a rosy picture about the extent that the residents were informed about the public projects. On the type of stakeholders in the project, it was discovered that majority of them were the residents either as local administrators, sponsors of the project and as mere members in the project but they wielded meagre influence in the project as per the findings. The study found out that the representation of the community members in public projects was adequate because over 80.0% of the residents were involved in the project through planning meetings, through determining the affected individuals, financial contribution to the project and through monitoring and evaluation.

Political interference was cited by the respondents as the greatest hindrance to project implementation in rural areas. Hostility and lack of cooperation from the excluded groups of people was another key drawback to project implementation in the rural areas. Majority of the respondents had the view that politicians had interrupted most projects and therefore they had to refrain from politicizing non-political matters to pave way for project implementation.

On the factors that contributed to project continuity and sustainability, the study established that a number of variables fostered this phenomenon. As such, majority of the respondents asserted that good governance contributed to project continuity and sustainability to a large extent through proper management of resources and elimination of corruption in project implementation. Reinforcement of project continuity and sustainability was enhanced by low cost of maintenance at a moderate extent through low cost of maintaining the staff, low cost of spare parts as well as the low cost of raw materials for sustaining the project. Furthermore, the findings revealed that community participation was crucial in project continuity and sustainability through rich ideas during decision making and legitimacy of the project in the rural areas. Advanced technology; accrued benefits; and clear maintenance procedures for care-taker office bearers were also pivotal in determining the continuity and sustainability of the projects in rural areas specifically the Kinangop Wind Park project. The study found out that these factors influenced project implementation to a very large extent. The study further realized that the projects initiated in rural areas adhered to corporate social responsibility as a mechanism of enhancing community loyalty and commitment to project implementation. Besides, the research discovered that the level of importance of the project was also pivotal in determining its continuity and sustainability. In summary, project continuity and sustainability was found to be possible through proper integration of the citizens in the process of project implementation.

Conclusions:

From the above findings, a number of conclusions can be made concerning the factors that influence community participation in the implementation of public projects in rural areas with Kinangop Wind Park project as the case study. First, it can be deduced from the above findings that most citizens are aware of the projects being implemented in the rural areas by the government and this information is widely communicated by the public administrators to the citizens. It can also be concluded that majority of the stakeholders in Kinangop project are the locals implying that they have been recognized as vital in the project implementation process.

Furthermore, it can be concluded that the community is largely involved in the project implementation especially in planning meetings, financial contribution and through monitoring and evaluation according to the statistics obtained from the respondents. Thus, the views of the citizens are highly reflected in the decision making process about the projects.

It can also concluded from the above findings that delays in project implementations were majorly due to political interference from the local politicians whose aim is to gain political legitimacy from the citizens at the expense of thwarting the prospects of the projects. It is also worthy to deduce that good governance; low cost of maintenance; the use of advanced technology; political influence; accrued benefits; and the level of importance of the project are key determinants of the continuity and sustainability of the of projects in rural areas.

Recommendations:

Policy recommendations:

In line with the above findings, the researcher recommends to those in authority to enhance citizen participation in projects as an avenue for promoting the success of project implementation as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution. Furthermore, it is recommended that the government should initiate laws that define the spheres of operation of the politicians so that they can be curbed from interfering with development issues such as implementation of projects.

I further recommend that the community members should be given decisive positions as stakeholders in projects for full exploitation of their potential and resources at the disposal of the citizens. This will help to reduce hostility from the citizens in places where the projects are designed to be implemented. Moreover, it will polarize the community members on the common goal of implementing the project.

Modern technology should also be adopted in the implementation of projects so that efficiency and effectiveness can be achieved. Moreover, competent staff should be employed so as to foster the attainment of the project objectives.

Recommendation for further research:

This research has presented the results of the analysis of the factors that influence community participation in implementation of public projects in rural areas as well as the key objectives of the study. From these findings, the researcher recommends that future researchers should consider researching on other projects in the country apart from the Kinangop Wind Park project to understand why most projects are in jeopardy.

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