

Determinants of Community Participation in the Implementation of Ward-Based Fund Projects in Maralal Town Ward, Samburu County

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Abstract: Community development initiatives have emerged as a crucial element in transforming the lives of local residents. Numerous projects have been implemented within communities with the aim of enhancing their quality of life. Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations have played a significant role in launching these projects, primarily focusing on reducing poverty and enhancing overall well-being in the region. This study sought to examine the community participation determinants and implementation of ward-based fund projects in Maralal town ward. Specifically the study aimed to examine the influence of culture on community participation in implementation of Ward-Based Fund Projects. The study used descriptive research design and targeted a population of 17,400 who were the registered voters in the ward. From this population a sample of 202 respondents was picked using stratified sampling technique and proportionate random sampling technique. Data collected was analyzed using Pearson's product moment correlation technique and SPSS V. 26. The findings of this study were presented using tables and figures. From the findings, it was established that Community Participation in Project Implementation without the influence of the predictor variables was 1.082. Results also illustrated that a unit increase in cultural beliefs would result to 0.159 times increase in Community Participation in Project Implementation. Recognizing the significant influence of cultural beliefs on community participation, the study recommends policymakers to incorporate cultural sensitivity into project design. Cultural awareness training for project planners and leaders can enhance their ability to align projects with community values, fostering greater acceptance and engagement.

Keywords: Community Participation, Implementation of Ward-Based Projects, Samburu County.

I. Introduction

Community participation, also known as citizen or public participation, exhibits variability in its application and definition. These definitions encompass a spectrum from passive engagement, where individuals receive benefits from programs, to active and conscious involvement in decision-making concerning programs and their associated activities. Wasilwa (2015) posited that community participation entails the process in which citizens respond to public concerns and assume responsibility for effecting changes in their community. Brager, Specht, and Torczyner (1987) conceptualized participation as a method for educating citizens and enhancing their competence, viewing it as a conduit for the transfer of political power. Another perspective on community and public participation emphasizes citizens' involvement in the identification of local priorities, policies, and programs necessitating resource allocation (Ali, 2018).

Globally, Several international legal instruments have acknowledged the entitlement of community members to engage in governance. For instance, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights stipulates that every person possesses the right to participate in their country's governance, whether through direct or indirect means. Likewise, global agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil, Social and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter), and the Covenant on the Rights of the Child (CRC) have all underscored the significance of community participation (Bosire and Gikonyo, 2015). Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council (ESC) has acknowledged that programs lacking active involvement from affected individuals are unlikely to achieve success (ESRC, 2017).

In developed democracies like Canada, public participation is a prominent feature of political life and government agendas. Public policy in Canada, both in the 1970s and today, has been characterized by active public involvement.

There are numerous examples of public participation, such as the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy and Development in 1996 to shape Canadian foreign policy. In 1997, the Canadian government engaged civil society in conferences in Ottawa and Geneva to secure a global ban on landmines, and a poverty eradication program was adopted as a means to strengthen the relationship between civil society and the state (Aminuzzaman, 2018).

In East Africa, Rwanda, following the genocide that occurred in 1994, has achieved significant development through a community participation strategy (AU, 2017). Rwanda has an education system that trains its population on community participation in development (Ali, 2018). In the country, every Monday, community members engage in various forms of community service, such as fixing broken sewerage systems, clearing dumping sites, and managing solid waste. Other factors that contribute to Rwandans' engagement in community services include well-established development rules, a sense of ownership of their land, and community involvement in decision-making processes.

At the local level, community involvement represents a significant focal point in Kenya's constitution. The 2010 Kenyan constitution underscores the vital importance of meaningful engagement in governance as a cornerstone of the public reforms it instituted. Legislative measures, including the County Government Act of 2012, the Urban Areas and Cities Act of 2011, the Public Finance Management Act of 2014, the Nairobi County Public Participation Act of 2015, the Access to Information Act of 2016, and the Draft Devolution Policy of 2015 (ESRC, 2017), place strong emphasis on citizen participation and establish a platform for active participation in devolved governance (Ghai, 2015).

In Samburu County, and specifically Maralal town ward there is a multitude of both county governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations actively engaged in carrying out diverse development initiatives. According to the NGO Council (2022), numerous projects have been launched over time with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Samburu County and specifically Marala ward. Despite these extensive efforts, a significant portion of the population remains hesitant to get involved in the execution of these development projects. Consequently, the development endeavors have made limited progress in positively impacting the community, as evidenced by economic data (Mwangi, 2017). Therefore, this research endeavor aims to identify the key factors that influence the participation of Marala ward residents in the implementation of development projects

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Poverty, illiteracy, and inadequate infrastructure continue to be major challenges faced by the residents of Samburu. However, with the introduction of the new constitution in 2010, numerous development projects have been initiated with the aim of improving the lives of impoverished communities. To address the issues of poverty, illiteracy, and limited infrastructure, it is crucial to establish community development projects that are responsive to the needs of the local population. Community development projects encompass interventions that address physical, social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental issues within a target community (Kamando, 2019). These projects can vary in scale from small group initiatives to large-scale endeavors (Suresh Kumar, 2016). The purpose of community development may vary, with some approaches focusing on addressing the root causes of problems, while others prioritize capacity building within the community to tackle their own challenges (WRHA, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Report, 2014). The primary focus of community development is to promote human rights, democracy, equality, and social justice, ultimately aiming to combat poverty and disadvantage (Owens, 2017).

The Ward Development Fund (WDF) projects have been instrumental in transforming the lives of the community in Samburu. These projects, initiated by the government and non-governmental organizations, aim to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions in the area. Projects related to water, healthcare, and education have been particularly impactful and are seen as catalysts for development. Sally and Rosemary (2017) note that WDF projects adopt a responsive approach to address local needs and empower the community in the decision-making process.

Despite the initiation of various development projects, there have been challenges regarding community participation. Local community involvement in these projects has been poor, resulting in operational and maintenance problems. Community members are often reluctant to engage in the implementation of these projects. According to Sei (2016), community participation is a vital component of community development, emphasizing a grassroots approach to problem-solving. Lack of information about the projects in the area, which stems from leaders not sharing information, has hindered community participation. This lack of involvement and consent from leaders can adversely affect the success of the projects. Furthermore, inadequate political will from leaders has also posed challenges for several development projects.

Community members play a significant role in the execution of WDF projects, and without their involvement, the projects cannot achieve their intended objectives. The execution and sustainability of these projects depend on community participation at all stages of the project's life cycle (Nampila, 2015). Lack of community involvement can lead to poor development priorities, resource duplication, mismatched needs prioritization, ineffective decision-making, and short-lived interventions due to poor sustainability plans and a lack of community ownership (Hassan, Muturi&Samantar, 2018). Despite the efforts and commitment of various stakeholders in promoting development through project implementation, the lack of community participation has been identified as a significant impediment. In response to this situation, this study aims to examine the determinants of community participation in the implementation of WDF projects in Samburu County, focusing on the case of Maralal town ward.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. Do cultural beliefs influence community participation on implementation of Ward-Based Fund Projects in Maralal town ward, Samburu County?

II. Literature Review

This section is about theories as well as empirical findings that is connected to the study.

2.1.1 Theory of New Public Management (NPM)

The introduction of New Public Management (NPM) aimed to streamline the operations of public service organizations at all levels of government, including national and county governments. NPM was initially implemented in the United Kingdom and Australia with the goal of making public service management more efficient and effective by adopting business-like practices (James, 2015). The private sector's focus on customer service is mirrored in NPM, where citizens are considered the customers who receive public services. Under NPM, the national government grants county governments the autonomy to deliver public services to the grassroots level.

NPM emerged in the 1980s as a response to the perception of government institutions as inefficient, undemocratic, and ineffective (Levy, 2010). Outsourcing was one of the strategies adopted during this era to improve efficiency and gain public support (Levy, 2010). However, outsourcing also raised concerns about corruption and political manipulation. Corruption has become a significant issue affecting devolution in Kenya, with reports indicating opportunities for corruption in public contracting, project implementation, and employment within the counties (Gige&Busolo, 2019; Fornshell, 2018). Bribery has been identified as the main form of corruption in county governments, according to Transparency International (2019) and the Ethics and Anti-corruption Survey Report (2018).

Osborne and Gaebler (2012) developed ten principles that form the foundation of the New Public Management approach. The first principle emphasizes the responsibility of focusing on service delivery to address public issues. The second principle advocates for community-based government that empowers citizens and encourages self-governance. This principle highlights the importance of citizen participation in decision-making processes that affect them, aligning with the concept of citizens' engagement in the study. The Kenyan constitution mandates citizen participation in matters concerning them.

2.1.2 Decentralization Theory

The decentralization theory, as articulated by Smith (1985) and further elaborated by Kochen& Deutsch (1980), encompasses the process of redistributing functions, powers, individuals, or resources away from a central authority. Conyers (1983) and Conyers (2006) define decentralization as the transfer of governmental powers or functions from the national level to sub-national levels. This concept spans both political and administrative domains, aiming to delegate decision-making and administrative authority to lower-tier governments. According to Rondinelli, Nellis, & Cheema (1983), decentralization involves delegating authority to plan, decide, and manage public functions from the central government to various local entities, including subordinate government units, semi-autonomous public entities, and non-governmental organizations. Smith (1985) views decentralization as both a reversal of administrative concentration at a single center and a distribution of powers to local governments. Consequently, decentralization entails transferring decision-making power and administrative responsibilities from the center to lower levels of governance.

Despite the prevalence of decentralization, there lacks a unified theory to comprehensively explain its nature and functioning. The concept emerged in the 1950s, influenced by neoclassical economic theories, and gained popularity as a development administration strategy in the late 1970s and 1980s. Smith (1985) contextualizes decentralization within the framework of local government and liberal democracy, emphasizing its significance in promoting political values such

as equality, liberty, and responsiveness at both national and local levels. At the local level, decentralization fosters political equality, accountability, and responsiveness, facilitating increased citizen participation in decision-making processes. This participatory approach is believed to enhance political equality and satisfy the needs and aspirations of local communities (Crook, 2003). Giguère (2003) highlights decentralization as an effective tool for responding to popular expectations, enabling local autonomy and decision-making. However, critics like Searle (1974) caution against decentralization, citing instances where local power is concentrated among elites and may perpetuate inequalities. Additionally, Siddle&Koelble (2013) argue that inadequate management capacity at the local level can hinder decentralization's effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

The theory of decentralization, as proposed by Smith (1985), aligns with the study's exploration of factors influencing community participation in Ward funded projects in Maralal ward, Samburu county. The ward based funds aims to empower local communities by funding projects that address their needs and enhance their quality of life. However, factors such as lack of awareness, demographic characteristics, education levels, and cultural beliefs influence may hinder full community participation in these projects. Thus, understanding decentralization theory provides insights into how team leadership styles influence community involvement in development initiatives

2.2 Empirical Literature

There are many studys that have been done on community participation with different scholars in both developed and undeveloped countries, with some of the known case that the rate of community participation could again defer from country to country whether developed or undeveloped. This section gives a relationship of other studies pertinent to study objectives. Scholars have looked at culture and community participationin the implementation of ward-based fund projects.

2.2.1 Culture and Community Participation in the Implementation of WFD projects

Culture refers to the shared way of life within a particular community, encompassing norms, values, beliefs, behaviors, and various aspects such as religion, philosophy, and ideology. Parrey (2019) defines sociocultural aspects as a combination of values, beliefs, traditions, and behaviors that exist within every society. Culture plays a significant role in the development arena, as it provides a means for people to express their fulfillment (Unesco report, 2009). Idang (2015) further categorizes culture into material and non-material aspects within the African cultural context. Material culture refers to visible, tangible objects created by humans to enhance survival, while non-material culture encompasses the norms, ethos, and traditions of the community. The impact of culture on communities is widely acknowledged. The CTSA report (2011) highlights that culture shapes identities, fosters a sense of community, influences relationships and power dynamics, and determines how meaning is created. Understanding cultural dynamics is essential for researchers and practitioners to build relationships, collaborate effectively, and establish respect and trust. Culture also plays a vital role in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), promoting self-reliance, and addressing poverty reduction at the local level by addressing community-specific issues (UNESCO, 2009).

In many communities, patriarchal systems prevail and significantly impact development projects. Patriarchy refers to male dominance over women, where women have limited or no role in decision-making processes concerning their own development. This hinders their freedom and participation in development activities. Karamunya and Cheben (2016) highlight the influence of taboos and beliefs in societies, which can affect the motivation of locals, especially women, to engage in community development projects.

Religious practices and beliefs also play a crucial role in determining the extent of voluntary participation in development projects. Certain projects need to consider and respect cultural beliefs and practices within the community. In many African communities, women are naturally less participatory, often due to traditional gender roles. For example, in rural areas, rituals may need to be observed before implementing development projects, and religious practices may restrict women from holding key positions or taking a leading role (Muyoka, 2016). Traditional beliefs, religious practices, and cultural norms act as barriers that hinder women's involvement in community development activities (Safia, 2016).

2.5 The Conceptual Framework

This section presents conceptual framework that shows the hypothetical relationship between variables under study.

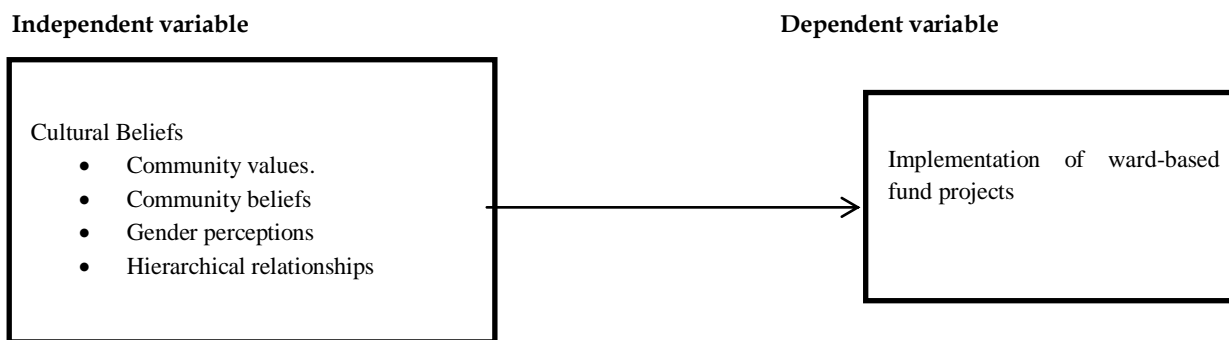


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher (2024)

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design.

The term research design refers to the plan and execution of a study, including the methods and techniques used to investigate research hypotheses or address research questions (Ngau, 2004). In this study, a descriptive research design was utilized. In a descriptive research design, data is collected from respondents to gather information about their experiences and opinions on a specific topic, with the aim of generalizing the findings to the larger population represented by the sample (Borg & Gall, 2003). This design is particularly suitable for obtaining factual and attitudinal information or exploring research questions related to self-reported beliefs, opinions, characteristics, and past or current behaviors (David & Sutton, 2004).

3.2 Target Population

The target population refers to the specific group of individuals or entities from which information will be collected (Ngechu, 2004). It represents a well-defined or specified set of people, groups, households, firms, services, elements, or events that are the focus of investigation. In this study, the population included all Maralal residents who are registered as voters in the ward and are spread across the seven sub-locations. The unit of analysis will be the individual resident and voter.

Table 1: Target Population

Sub-Location	Total	Percentage
Milimani	2,822	16.2
Shabaa	2,979	17.1
Ngari	2,786	16
Ledero	1638	9.4
Nkuroto	1,934	11.1
Lpartuk	1,767	10.2
Maralal Town	3,474	20
Total	17,400	100

Source, (IEBC, 2022)

3.3 Sampling Technique

The study used simple random sampling to select the required sample size in each of the seven sub-locations. This method gives each unit in the target population a chance to be selected for the study. The sample size was determined by the Yamane formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where;

n= is the desired sample size

e= margin of error (as a decimal)

N= population size

$$n=17,400 / (1+17,400*0.05^2)$$

n = 201.6

A sample of 202 respondents was randomly selected for the survey and was subjected to the questionnaire. For the survey recruiting process, the ward voter registration list was used as a sampling frame. This was facilitated by the ward administrator of Maralal Ward. The respondents were proportionately selected from the 7 sub-locations as shown below.

Table 2: Sample Population

Sub-Location	Sample	Percentage
Milimani	33	16.2
Shabaa	35	17.1
Ngari	31	16
Ledero	20	9.4
Nkuroto	22	11.1
Lpartuk	21	10.2
Maralal Town	40	20
Total	202	100

Source, Auther, 2024

3.4 Research Instrument

Data collection was conducted through the use of a standardized questionnaire designed to gather primary data. The questionnaire will consist of a combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions. A questionnaire is a pre-prepared set of written questions, and respondents record their answers, usually choosing from predefined options (Sekaran, 1992). Structured questions, as described by Chandran (2004), are typically closed-ended, where respondents select the most suitable response from the provided options. Open-ended questions, on the other hand, allow respondents to provide detailed and comprehensive answers.

3.4.1 Pilot Study

To enhance the research instruments, a pilot study was conducted, as emphasized by Ngechu (2004). The pilot study enabled improvements to be made based on the results obtained. In this study, a pilot group consisting of 5% of the target respondents from WDF projects in Lodokejek ward, which shares similar demographics with Maralal Ward, was selected to participate in the pilot study. The pilot study was to assess the clarity and understanding of the questions, as well as determine if the expected answers can be obtained. The researcher will use the questionnaire during the pilot study to test the validity and reliability of the collected data.

3.4.2 Validity

Validity is employed to assess whether a research study accurately captures its intended measurements and whether the research findings reflect the truth. It also aids in ascertaining whether the instrument employed collects the expected information (Bryman, 2012). To establish the validity of the questionnaire items, it is essential that they genuinely elicit responses pertaining to the variables under investigation. To ensure the measuring tool used in this study is valid, a pilot survey will be carried out in Lodokejek Ward, involving respondents who are not part of the primary study. The results will be scrutinized to determine if the responses align with the study's intended objectives, and any necessary adjustments will be made accordingly.

3.4.3 Reliability Test

Reliability pertains to the degree of consistency exhibited by a research instrument in measuring specific characteristics over time. A research tool is deemed reliable when it embodies two fundamental aspects: stability and equivalence (Donald and Delno, 2006). If an instrument accurately evaluates its intended attributes and consistently yields similar results when repeatedly measuring the same entity, it is considered reliable. This study will employ internal consistency reliability, assessed using Cronbach's alpha, a widely utilized method for determining internal consistency through the calculation of correlation values among responses on an assessment tool. A Cronbach's alpha value of 0.7 or higher is the recommended threshold for deeming a research instrument reliable.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

After obtaining a letter of introduction from Mount Kenya University, the researcher will present it to the National

Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) to obtain permission for conducting the study. Once the permit is obtained, the researcher will seek permission from the administration of Maralal Ward to carry out the study. Following a brief introduction and assurance of confidentiality, the researcher will approach and administer questionnaires to the prospective respondents.

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

The study will adopt mixed analysis by using quantitative data analysis techniques for the quantitative data and qualitative data analysis techniques for the qualitative data. Mixed data analysis involves data reduction, data display, data transformation, data consolidation, data comparison and data integration (Creswell, 2013; Creswell & Clark 2010). First the study will check the collected data for completeness, wrong responses and remove unusable data so as to ensure data quality.

In analyzing quantitative data collected through the questionnaire from the residents in Maralal ward, descriptive statistics like mean and standard deviation will be used to summarize data. Inferential statistics such as correlation coefficients will be used to test the correlation (non- causal relationship) between variables while regression analysis will be used to test causal relationship.

In analyzing qualitative data, content analysis will be used. Content analysis will help the study to determine the presence of concepts, themes; patterns and key words so as to be able interpret, understand and draw insightful meaning and conclusion from the data (Neuendorf, 2017; Elo et al., 2014; Creswell, 2013).

The study was based on the following regression model:

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

Y= Implementation of community projects

X₁= Team leadership styles

X₂= Cultural beliefs

X₃ = Level of education

ε = Error Term β₀= Minimum when all the independent variables are held constant at zero (referred to as constant or intercept)

β₁, β₂, β₃ = Rate of change in Y as a result of a unit change in independent variable

The study used ANOVA to test the relationship between the independent variables and dependent. A co-efficient of determination (R²) was performed to determine how much of the dependent variable comes about as a result of the independent variables while regression co-efficient was used to indicate the effect of each individual variable on project completion.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Descriptive statistics on Culture and Community Participation in the Implementation of WFD projects

Respondents were asked to indicate whether culture affected community participation in the implementation of ward-based fund projects in Maralal town ward, Samburu County

Table 3: Culture and Community Participation

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
Gender perceptions influence the members' ability to participate in CDP implementation	157	1	5	3.71	.843
Hierarchical relationships influence the members' ability to participate in CDP implementation	157	2	5	4.63	.761

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Community values influence the community members' ability to participate in CDP implementation	157	3	5	3.82	.812
Cultural orientation in the locality prejudice women participation Community projects implementation	157	3	5	4.33	.743
Community beliefs influence the community members' ability to participate in CDP implementation	157	2	5	4.24	.782

Source: Survey ,2023

The research findings shed light on the complex dynamics surrounding gender perceptions, hierarchical relationships, community values, cultural orientation, and community beliefs in the context of community development project implementation. Participants, on average, moderately perceive that gender perceptions influence members' ability to engage in such projects (mean = 3.71, std dev = 0.843). This suggests a recognition of the impact of gender-related attitudes on community participation, with room for improvement and potential interventions to foster inclusivity. In contrast, hierarchical relationships within the community exhibit a stronger influence on members' ability to participate in project implementation (mean = 4.63, std dev = 0.761). This indicates a substantial acknowledgment of the impact of hierarchical structures on community involvement, highlighting the need to navigate and address these structures for more effective and equitable participation. The research also uncovers a moderate influence of community values on members' ability to participate in projects (mean = 3.82, std dev = 0.812). This implies that community values play a discernible role in shaping participation dynamics, warranting attention to align project goals with these values for greater community buy-in and engagement. Furthermore, the findings reveal a considerable perception that cultural orientation in the locality prejudices women's participation in community projects (mean = 4.33, std dev = 0.743). This emphasizes the existence of gender-related biases deeply rooted in cultural norms, signalling a critical area for targeted interventions to promote gender inclusivity in project implementation. Lastly, the research highlights a noteworthy impact of community beliefs on members' ability to participate in projects (mean = 4.24, std dev = 0.782). This suggests that deeply ingrained beliefs within the community significantly influence the level of engagement in development initiatives, underscoring the importance of understanding and addressing these beliefs for successful project implementation.

The findings are in agreement with Karamunya and Cheben (2016) who argued that communities, patriarchal systems prevail and significantly impact development projects. Patriarchy refers to male dominance over women, where women have limited or no role in decision-making processes concerning their own development. This hinders their freedom and participation in development activities. He further highlighted the influence of taboos and beliefs in societies, which can affect the motivation of locals, especially women, to engage in community development projects. The literature review provides a profound exploration of the intricate interplay between culture and community participation in development projects, elucidating how cultural norms, beliefs, and practices influence the dynamics of such initiatives. Parrey (2019) underscores culture as a defining aspect of community life, encompassing norms, values, and behaviors that shape individuals' identities and interactions. Moreover, the review highlights the significant role of patriarchy, taboos, religious beliefs, and traditional gender roles in constraining women's involvement in development activities (Karamunya&Cheben, 2016; Muyoka, 2016).

The research findings unveil nuanced perceptions regarding the influence of culture on community participation, particularly concerning gender perceptions, hierarchical relationships, community values, cultural orientation, and community beliefs (Table 4.4). Gender perceptions emerge as a moderate influencer of community engagement, suggesting a recognition of gender-related attitudes' impact on participation (CTSA report, 2011). Meanwhile, hierarchical relationships within the community exhibit a stronger influence, underscoring the significance of addressing power dynamics for equitable participation. Furthermore, the findings underscore the role of community values and beliefs, indicating their discernible impact on participation dynamics (Unesco report, 2009).

Notably, the research highlights the substantial perception that cultural orientation prejudices women's participation, echoing the literature's emphasis on patriarchal systems and traditional gender roles inhibiting women's freedom and

involvement in development activities. Additionally, the influence of community beliefs on participation underscores the need to address deeply ingrained cultural norms to foster inclusive participation in community projects.

These findings align with scholarly arguments regarding the pervasive influence of culture, patriarchy, and traditional beliefs on community development initiatives. By elucidating the specific ways in which culture shapes participation dynamics, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in fostering community engagement. Moreover, the findings underscore the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in designing and implementing development projects, emphasizing the need to navigate and address cultural barriers to promote inclusivity and effectiveness (Idang, 2015; Safia, 2016).

4.2 Correlation Analysis on Cultural Beliefs and Community Participation in the Implementation of WFD projects.

In addition, the study sought to establish correlation between culture and community participation in the implementation of ward-based fund projects in Maralal town ward, Samburu County. The findings of the study are as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Correlation between Culture and Community Participation in the Implementation of WFD projects.

		Community Participation in Project Implementation
Cultural Beliefs	Pearson Correlation	.553*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012
	N	157

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Survey Data (2023)

The Pearson correlation coefficient of .553 with a significance level of .012 (2-tailed) between cultural beliefs and community participation on project implementation suggests a moderately strong positive correlation. This correlation indicates that there is a meaningful relationship between cultural beliefs and the extent to which the community actively participates in project implementation. A positive correlation of .553 suggests that as cultural beliefs within the community increase or decrease, there is a notable tendency for community participation in project implementation to move in the same direction. In other words, communities with stronger cultural beliefs may exhibit higher levels of participation in project implementation, while those with weaker cultural beliefs may demonstrate lower levels of engagement. The strength of the correlation is considered moderately strong, falling between 0.3 and 0.7. The significance level of .012 (2-tailed) indicates that the observed correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level. This means that the likelihood of obtaining such a correlation by random chance is low, reinforcing the confidence in the validity of the observed relationship between cultural beliefs and community participation. In practical terms, these results suggest that cultural beliefs play a significant role in shaping community engagement in project implementation. Communities with strong cultural ties may have a shared sense of responsibility or collective identity that fosters active involvement in development initiatives. Understanding this correlation can inform project planners and policymakers about the importance of considering and respecting cultural beliefs to enhance community participation and promote successful project outcomes.

4.2Regression analysis between cultural beliefs and community participation in the implementation of WFD projects

The study ascertained the effect of cultural beliefs on community participation in the implementation of ward-based fund projects in Maralal town ward, Samburu County

Table 5: Model Summary

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.681 ^a	.463	.458	.62786

a. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural beliefs

Source: Survey Data (2024)

As shown in Table 5, the relationship between independent variable and dependent variables was established to be positive moderately strong. The R-Squared is the variation of the dependent variable in respect to the changes in the independent variable. The R-squared in this study was 0.463, which shows that the independent variable(Cultural beliefs) can explain 46.3% of the dependent variable while 53.7% is the variation due to other factors, which have not been covered in this study.

Table 6: ANOVA Results

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.546	3	.887	9.337	.000 ^b
	Residual	4.387	153	.095		
	Total	7.934	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Community Participation in Project Implementation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural beliefs

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The analysis of variance in this study was used to determine whether the model is a good fit for the data. From the findings, the p-value was 0.000 which is less than 0.05 and hence the model was good in predicting how the independent variable(Cultural beliefs) influenced public participation. Further, the F value was lower than the F-calculated which was (9.337) which shows that the model was fit in predicting the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients

Regression Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		Beta	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.082	.127		8.529	9.515.000
	Cultural Beliefs	.159	.042	.220		.000

a. Dependent Variable: Community Participation in Project Implementation

Source: Survey Data (2023)

The study also conducted a regression analysis to establish the regression coefficients connecting the independent and dependent variable as illustrated by the equation illustrated below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \epsilon$$

Whereby Y represents Community Participation in Project Implementation. X_1 represents cultural beliefs. β_0 represents Constant which defines the value of Community Participation in Project Implementation without the inclusion of predictor variables. From the results in Table 7 the given equation was answered by the values of Unstandardized Coefficients (β). The results indicate that cultural beliefs have a positive relationship with Community Participation in Project Implementation Thus,

$$Y = 1.082 + 0.314X_1 + \varepsilon$$

The value of Community Participation in Project Implementation without the influence of the predictor variables is 1.082. This explains that, at any given time, Community Participation in Project Implementation will be 1.082 holding other factors constant at 0. The results also illustrate that, a unit change in cultural beliefs would result to 0.159 times increase in Community Participation in Project Implementation.

V. CONCLUSION

Regarding cultural beliefs, the correlation indicates that there is a meaningful relationship between cultural beliefs and the extent to which the community actively participates in project implementation. The Pearson correlation coefficient of .553 with a significance level of .012 (2-tailed) between cultural beliefs and community participation on project implementation suggests a moderately strong positive correlation. A positive correlation of .553 suggests that as cultural beliefs within the community increase or decrease, there is a notable tendency for community participation in project implementation to move in the same direction. In other words, communities with stronger cultural beliefs may exhibit higher levels of participation in project implementation, while those with weaker cultural beliefs may demonstrate lower levels of engagement. The relationship between cultural beliefs and community participation in project implementation was established to be positive, and statistically significant with a positive correlation of .553 regression coefficients

VI. RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY

Recognizing the significant influence of cultural beliefs on community participation, policymakers should incorporate cultural sensitivity into project design. Cultural awareness training for project planners and leaders can enhance their ability to align projects with community values, fostering greater acceptance and engagement. Encourage platforms for cross-cultural dialogue between project planners, leaders, and community members. This can help bridge gaps in understanding, address cultural nuances, and ensure that project initiatives are inclusive and respectful of diverse cultural perspectives.

VII. SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Future studies in the realm of community participation in the implementation of ward-based fund projects in Maralal Town Ward could delve into exploring the nuanced interplay between environmental sustainability and community engagement. Investigating how environmental considerations, such as resource conservation, climate resilience, and eco-friendly practices, impact community participation in development initiatives would provide a holistic understanding. Additionally, an examination of the role of social capital, including trust, social networks, and community cohesion, could offer insights into the social dynamics that influence active involvement in project implementation. Moreover, longitudinal studies assessing the evolution and sustained impact of community-led projects over time would contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the determinants of successful and enduring community participation in the development processes within Maralal Town Ward.

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