

Effect of Women Empowerment on Completion of Community Development Projects in Kenya; A Case of Mogotio Sub County, Baringo

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Abstract: Community development projects are essential for socio-economic progress, yet in Mogotio Sub County, Kenya, the impact of women's empowerment on project completion is understudied. Research highlights the crucial link between women's empowerment and active involvement in such projects, emphasizing its role in driving overall performance. This study investigates the influence of women's empowerment on the successful completion of community development projects in Mogotio Sub County, Kenya. The main objective of the study was: To find out the effect of Women Social Support Networks on completion of community development projects in Mogotio sub county. The study used a descriptive research design, the study aimed to provide an accurate representation of the situation. The target population was, 45,088 women above 18 years residing in Mogotio sub-county. The sampling procedure involved multi-stage sampling techniques, resulting in a sample size of 110 respondents. Data was collected through surveys using structured questionnaire. A pilot test was carried out involving 12 respondents from Baringo South sub-county to enhance the questionnaire's clarity, relevance, and reliability. Validity and reliability of the instrument was ensured through content validity determined by pilot testing and test-retest reliability assessment for internal consistency. Data analysis involved both qualitative and quantitative methods, with SPSS version 22 utilized for quantitative data analysis. Descriptive statistics was employed to analyze the data, and frequency tables was generated to present the findings accurately. The findings from the statistical analysis reveal significant correlations between social support networks, show strong positive relationships with project completion, with correlation coefficients ranging from 0.449 to 0.572. Moreover, regression analysis demonstrates that this factor account for approximately 58.2% of the variance in project completion, highlighting its predictive value in understanding and improving project outcomes. The study recommends that policymakers prioritize initiatives aimed at strengthening social support networks to effectively promote the completion of community development projects.

Keywords: *Social Support Networks, Project completion, Mogotio Sub county*

I. Introduction

Women's empowerment has emerged as a critical focal point in contemporary discourse, linking to the enhanced status of women, improved familial and community welfare, and broader societal gains (Akhtar, 2020). As the world endeavors to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, scholars like Yunis, Hashim, and Anderson (2018) underscore the central role of women's empowerment in global efforts towards sustainable development. Recognizing its pivotal importance, women's empowerment has gained prominence in policy interventions and various public and private organizations worldwide, driven by the acknowledgment of the manifold benefits associated with the involvement and empowerment of women (Yousef, Sandhu & Ahmed, 2018).

The realization of the principles outlined in the 1945 United Nations (UN) Human Rights Declaration remains pertinent in the contemporary world, particularly as women confront a myriad of challenges (Langley, 2019). These challenges

span various realms, encompassing socio-economic and political spheres, including workplace discrimination (Langley, 2019), limitations on acquiring economic assets like land social injustices, and disparities in opportunities (Basford, Offermann, & Behrend, 2020). In response to these issues, discussions on how to address gender inequality have surfaced across diverse platforms, highlighting the need to adhere to the principles set forth in the declaration (Langley, 2019). Gender researchers and activists persist in devising initiatives and strategies to ensure the rightful placement of women globally (Cornwall, 2018). Esteemed global organizations, such as the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and UN Women, consistently emphasize the pivotal role women can play in propelling worldwide economic growth and development (Dibie&Dibie, 2019).

Kenya has adopted strategies with the primary goal of advancing women's empowerment, specifically targeting the eradication of discrimination and all forms of violence against women, whether of a sexual or gender-based nature (UN Women, 2015). The country has made significant strides in promoting women's effective participation, not only in parliamentary seats but also in decision-making processes and leadership and management roles (UN Women, 2015). A pivotal achievement has been the implementation of the two-thirds gender rule, which has played a crucial role in fostering development (Bandara, 2018). The introduction of a new constitution in 2010 has also provided a robust framework for addressing gender equality, marking a transformative phase for women's rights in Kenya. This constitutional shift signifies a new chapter aimed at rectifying the historical exclusion of women and ensuring their comprehensive involvement in all facets of growth and development (Bandara, 2018).

II. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study isto examine effect of Women Social Support Networks on completion of community development projects in Mogotio sub county.

III. Literature Review

Social support networks refer to the web of interpersonal relationships and connections that individuals have within their social environment. These networks provide various forms of assistance, encouragement, and emotional support to individuals in times of need or during everyday life. Social support can be both formal and informal, encompassing relationships with family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues, community groups, and organizations. In many developing nations, women often face significant obstacles when attempting to complete their community development projects, primarily due to a lack of networks (Datta & Gailey, 2018). These challenges stem from women's comparatively lower levels of technical expertise, capacity, and mobility in comparison to their male counterparts (Grant, 2018).

The World Bank's Action Plan on Gender Equality as Smart Economics underscores that true empowerment of women cannot be achieved without ensuring their access to markets and enabling them to compete on an equal footing with men (Ahamad et al., 2016). This is because, in contrast to men, women typically possess less bargaining power, fewer business connections, and limited expertise in navigating governmental bureaucracies, all of which collectively constrain the completion of their projects. Additionally, many women struggle to access information, particularly as women operate small self-help group projects, primarily at a local level, and often lack affiliation with professional organizations. Muhammad (2017) highlights the critical role of social networks in small businesses, as they serve as a crucial source of social capital.

Networking within specialized programs for women-initiated projects not only enhances their organization's monitoring capabilities but also fosters creativity and innovation by facilitating interactions with other women from diverse social backgrounds (Bogren et al., 2017). Networking provides opportunities for the rapid exchange of knowledge, helping women to enhance their reputations and secure financing. Furthermore, for women-owned projects progressing along their growth trajectory, networks serve as pathways to accessing new markets, diverse resources, and specialized skills (Ademokun & Ajayi, 2012). Beyond simply bolstering the success prospects of individual groups, networks serve as potent catalysts for job creation, innovation, revitalization, and progress.

Given that starting any community project necessitates resources such as funding, labor, information, and guidance, networking holds strategic significance for women (Hampton et al., 2019). Networks contribute to the availability of necessary support and facilities for women groups, both in launching and effectively managing their projects (Burt, 2019). Additionally, the connections forged through networking enrich the social capital of women, which in turn correlates with project performance. Gungaphul and Kassean (2017) highlight that research across various countries indicates that although women engage in networking activities, they often lack sufficient and reliable social networks compared to men.

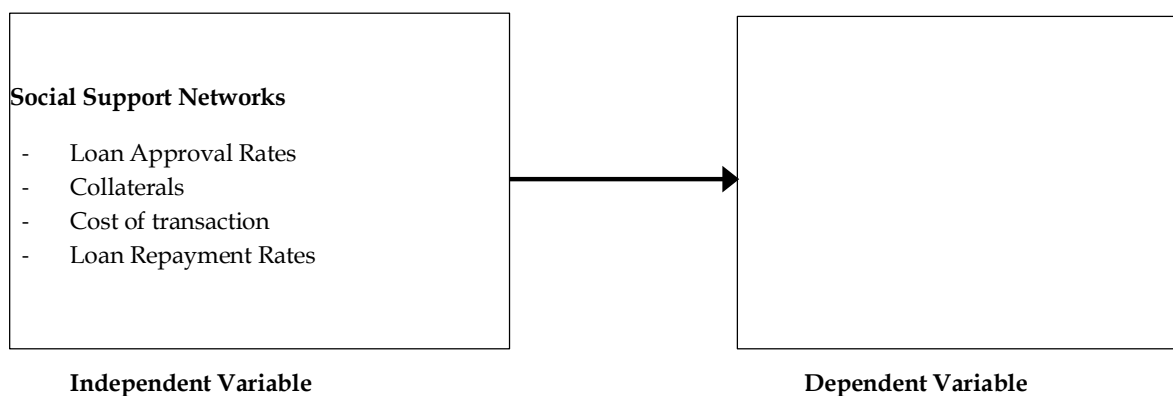


Fig 1: conceptual Framework

Social support networks gauge the extent of women's connections and collaboration within their communities, providing insights into the strength of their social capital and the resources available to them.

IV. Research Methodology

This study adopted descriptive research design in order to present an accurate situation on the effect of women empowerment on completion of community development projects in Mogotio sub county, Kenya. . An advantage for using descriptive research approach involves opportunity to collect quantitative data through semi-structured interviews. Furthermore, the approach allows one to identify variables to test relationship among them. Women aged above 18 years and residing in Mogotio sub-county were the target population in this study. According to the KNBS,(2019) there are 45,088 women in the sub county aged above from 18 years from 18,184 households in Mogotio sub-county . The study adopted the Nassiuma (2000) method in determining the sample size of 110 respondents from Mogotio sub county Kenya. The researcher applied multi-stage sampling techniques to arrive at the sample. First, the respondents were sampled using stratified sampling technique by dividing them categorically into three strata, that is Mogotio, Emining and Kisanana. The respondents were sampled proportionately from each stratum and picked using random sampling technique from the three wards.

Both primary and secondary data was used for the study. Primary data was collected using questionnaires with close ended questions, which enhances uniformity, covering all the objectives. Data collected through the questionnaire from the respondents, was analysed using SPSS and summarised using descriptive statistics like mean and standard deviation. Inferential statistics such as correlation coefficients were used to test the correlation (non-causal relationship) between variables while regression analysis was used to test causal relationship.

The regression model was as follows:

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

Where: Y it = Social Support Networks

X₁= completion of community development projects

β₀ is the intercept and β₁, is the coefficient

e = error term

V. Findings

This section outlines the descriptive and inferential findings of the study.

5.1 Descriptive Findings of the Study

The respondents were asked to indicate whether social support networks affected Completion of Community Development Projects in Mogotio sub county. The results are indicated in Table 1

Table 1: Statements relating to Social Support Network and Project Completion

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
Social support networks play a crucial role in facilitating the completion of community development projects	91	2	5	4.09	.972
social support network provides emotional encouragement and motivation during the process of completing community development projects	91	1	5	4.31	.903
Social support networks provides practical assistance, such as volunteer labor or resources, for community development projects	91	1	5	3.94	.882
Strong social support networks contribute to increased community cohesion and collaboration, thereby enhancing the completion of development projects	91	2	5	4.13	.936
social support networks contribute to the sustainability of community development projects beyond their completion	91	3	5	3.73	.868

Source: Survey Data (2024)

The findings shows the significant role of social support networks in facilitating the successful completion of community development projects. With a mean score of 4.09 and a standard deviation of 0.972, it is evident that these networks serve as crucial enablers, providing essential assistance and encouragement throughout the project lifecycle. Notably, the data indicates that beyond offering emotional backing, social support networks actively contribute practical assistance, including volunteer labor and access to necessary resources, as reflected in the mean score of 3.94 with a standard deviation of 0.882. This highlights the nature of support systems within communities, demonstrating their capacity to mobilize tangible resources that are instrumental in project implementation.

Moreover, the study reveals that strong social support networks play a pivotal role in fostering increased community cohesion and collaboration, as indicated by a mean score of 4.13 with a standard deviation of 0.936. This suggests that robust social bonds within communities contribute significantly to the overall success of development projects, creating an environment conducive to effective collaboration and collective action. Furthermore, the data indicates that these networks extend their influence beyond the completion of projects, contributing to their long-term sustainability, as evidenced by a mean score of 3.73 with a standard deviation of 0.868. This highlights the enduring impact of social support structures, emphasizing their role in ensuring the continued success and resilience of community development initiatives well beyond their initial implementation phase. This aligns with the findings of a study by Nzomo and Kamau (2023), advocating for policy interventions that promote gender equality and empower women to contribute meaningfully to community projects. These empirical insights highlight the critical role of social support networks in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, emphasizing the need for continued research and policy interventions to maximize their impact on the completion of community development projects.

Table 2: Completion of Community Development Projects

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Community development projects are completed within the designated timeline	91	2	5	3.39	.856
The successful completion of community development project enhances the overall quality of life and well-being of residents	91	1	5	4.74	.891
The efficient completion of community development projects reflects effective project planning, implementation, and management strategies	91	1	5	4.24	.782
The successful completion of community development projects demonstrates effective resource mobilization and utilization.	91	2	5	4.08	.891
The completion of community development projects facilitates economic growth and sustainable development in the region	91	1	5	3.63	.921

The data indicates that community development projects in the region are generally completed within the designated timeline, with a mean score of 3.39 and a standard deviation of 0.856. This suggests that there is room for improvement in meeting project deadlines more consistently, which could be achieved through enhanced project planning and management strategies. However, it is noteworthy that the successful completion of community development projects significantly contributes to the overall quality of life and well-being of residents, as reflected in a high mean score of 4.74 and a standard deviation of 0.891. This shows the importance of these initiatives in addressing community needs and improving living conditions, highlighting their positive impact on social welfare and human development.

Furthermore, the efficient completion of community development projects is associated with effective project planning, implementation, and management strategies, as indicated by a mean score of 4.24 and a standard deviation of 0.782. This emphasizes the significance of sound project management practices in ensuring successful project outcomes and maximizing the benefits derived from development initiatives. Moreover, the successful completion of community development projects is seen as a reflection of effective resource mobilization and utilization, with a mean score of 4.08 and a standard deviation of 0.891. This indicates the importance of optimizing resource allocation and management processes to enhance project efficiency and effectiveness. Overall, the completion of community development projects is not only crucial for addressing local needs and improving quality of life but also for promoting economic growth and sustainable development in the region, with a mean score of 3.63 and a standard deviation of 0.921.

5.2 Regression Analysis

Regression analysis was performed to determine the effects of the four predictor variables on the completion of community development projects in Mogotio sub county, Kenya. The results were as shown in Table 3

Table 3 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.765a	0.582	0.536	0.634

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Support Networks

The coefficient of determination (R-squared) for the model is 0.582, indicating that approximately 58.2% of the variance in project completion can be explained by the predictors included in the model. This suggests that the model accounts for a substantial portion of the variability in project completion, which is a positive indication of its predictive capability. The adjusted R-squared value, which takes into account the number of predictors and sample size, is 0.536. The standard error of the estimate, which measures the average distance between the observed and predicted values of the dependent variable, is 0.634. This indicates the average amount of error in the model's predictions of project completion. Lower values of the standard error suggest better predictive accuracy, so a value of 0.634 indicates a moderate level of accuracy in the model's predictions.

Table 4 ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	18.982	4	4.7455	83.254	.000b
	Residual	5.334	93	0.057		
	Total	24.316	97			

a. Dependent Variable: Project Completion

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Support Networks

Table 5: Regression Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	0.137	.502		1.032	.008
Social Support Networks	.527	.094	.546	6.238	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Project Completion

The Y- Intercept (Constant, $\beta_0 = 0.137$), predict the dependent variable when the independent variable is zero, implying that the women empowerment variable which is social support networks will be 0.137. From the analysis, social support networks were found to have significant relationship with project completion in Mogotio sub county ($\beta = 0.527$, $p < 0.05$). This implies that a unit increase social support networks results to project completion by 0.527.

VI. Conclusion

The study highlights the pivotal role of social support networks in facilitating the successful completion of community development projects. These networks provide essential emotional encouragement, practical assistance, and resources, contributing to increased community cohesion and collaboration. Beyond project completion, they contribute to the long-term sustainability of initiatives, highlighting their enduring impact on community welfare and development.

Therefore, fostering and strengthening social support networks should be prioritized to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of community development efforts.

Recommendations

Investment in Community Networks: Policy makers should prioritize investment in community networks and social support systems to strengthen their capacity to facilitate project completion. Efforts should be made to promote collaboration among community members, local organizations, and government agencies to harness the collective strength of social support networks.

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