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Influence of community participation in rural community development: A case of community based organizations in Mwingi North constituency, Kenya

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Abstract
In rural community development, community participation is a vital element that ensures and speeds the socio-economic transformation of people and rural areas. Although, over the years, community participation has received little attention from the governments in developing countries, NGOs, the United Nations Organization, and the CBOs have actively advocated and supported community participation, especially in development planning and developing poverty alleviation strategies. This study investigates the influence of community participation of CBOs on rural community development in Mwingi North Constituency in Kitui County. The study adopted a mixed-method research design. The target population of this study comprised of 54 registered water CBOs appearing on the CBO register of District Development Officer (DDO), Mwingi North constituency. It adopted stratified random sampling and purposive sampling to include a sample of 327 respondents. The data collection instrument adopted were questionnaire surveys and interviews to acquire quantitative and qualitative data. In the analysis and presentation of data, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was employed to ascertain reliability that was obtained through the split-half technique. Descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation and correlation were adopted to analyze quantitative data. Inferential statistics employed simple linear regression to test the strength of the relationship between the variables based on observed data and to predict the value of the dependent variable based on the independent variable. This study established that community participation of CBOs had a significant influence with R=0.549, R^2=0.301, β=4.704, t=6.686, F $(_{1,325})$ = 41.714, p<0.05. These results implied that community participation of CBOs had a positive significant influence on the implementation of rural community development. The study concluded that the role of community participation of CBOs positively influenced the implementation of rural community development in Mwingi North Constituency, Kitui County, Kenya.

Keywords: community participation, rural community development, community-based organizations, Mwingi North consistuency, Kitui county

Introduction

Community participation is a debated and discussed topic among researchers and scholars. It involves the involvement of human effort in the developmental process where they are the least considered stakeholders in this process by the government. Community participation is a precondition for development as it maximizes the success rates of projects executed in the communities. Many times, lesser community participation has led to the failure of community projects (Mulwa, 2009) [7]. Development of rural areas is achieved through various activities, including the local people's active participation, the communities' natural environment, outsources Subject Matter Experts and practitioners, and any other involved developmental institution.

Community involvement enables community members to have full control of the development projects, decision-making, and resources developed by CBOs, as they are the beneficiaries of these projects. Therefore, in order to attain full development of the entire rural communities, it is recommended for the members to actively participate in choosing the development projects that they prioritize most and would meet their needs rather than having government agencies selecting the projects for them and they may not be pressing at all. Moreover, opportunities should be given to the poor and the less privileged to participate fully in the development initiatives and the decisions affecting them (Kibire, 2015). Many rural areas in the African society mostly have higher poverty levels, poor health care services, and high illiteracy levels, among others, due to geographical isolation as well as socio-economic and political inequalities (Ekong, 2013).

Community participation is an ingredient to rural community development. Although, over the (CDF, 2018) [6] years, community participation has received little attention from the governments in developing countries, NGOs, the United Nations Organization, as well as the CBOs have actively advocated and supported community participation, most especially in development planning and developing poverty alleviation strategies (Gitonga, 2010) [13]. Rural community development cannot be achieved without the people's active involvement, specifically in decision-making, execution of essential projects, monitoring and evaluation of these projects to determine their success levels and loopholes, and finally sharing developmental benefits (Gitonga, 2010) [13].

Other than increasing the livelihood of people and rural community development, community participation promotes awareness among all involved stakeholders on the required funds, the utilization of these funds, and are able to make wise decisions on the prioritization of the projects.

Moreover, through this constant monitoring of the projects, community participation enhances values of transparency and accountability among their leaders, as they would keep them on check to work openly and inclusively (Gitonga, 2010) [13]. This inclusivity would require the local people to participate in decision-making, which is emphasized by the World Bank, which describes participation as the involvement of all stakeholders in taking full control of resources and developmental incentives.

Statement of the Problem

CBOs are effective tools and imperative vehicles used to enhance people's living standards in promoting sustainable development. This is because they use developmental approaches such as integrated approaches, people-centered approaches, and participatory development approaches. Through these approaches, they can organize and create awareness among the communities to take actions aimed at exploiting the rich social capital asset for the public good process (Nyamori, 2009) [38]. There is inequality in the development levels whereby most of the development is mostly centered in urban areas while the rural areas are largely neglected (Mayberry, 2010) [29]. Like most districts in Kenya, Mwingi North has been experiencing continuous and increasing poverty levels, which calls for constant humanitarian intervention in terms of relief food supply.

Mwingi North is among some of the poorest districts in Kenya, and about 58% of its population lives below the poverty line (Mwingi District Development Plan 2012). Most parts of Mwingi rural areas lack basic amenities such as clean and piped - water, good road networks, schools, electricity, health facilities. It also experiences poor rainfall, inaccessible markets among others making rural areas to be grossly underdeveloped and as a result, the rural people have low purchasing and standard of living (UNDP, 2010) [49]. A survey done in March 2012, in Mwingi, showed that 47.7% of people were using drinking water from sand scooped well, 13.7% from boreholes and 10.2% from the household connection. 70% of the residence took 1 hour to get water from the main water source. 65% used donkeys to ferry water, while 26.5% used their back to carry water from the source (CDF, 2018) [6].

The challenges outlined above form the basis for the evolution of CBOs as an alternative developmental framework. This has defined some of the mandates of the CBOs to adequately address the pressures and challenges in the community; to table their needs; assemble local resources, both monetary and nonmonetary; and seek external financial support, all in the bid to execute possible developmental activities effectively and successfully. In other words, the CBOs can be termed as institutions developed to address the challenges of inadequate resources in the community through their participation in community development projects. This action is geared to enhancing and supporting efforts of communities that have minimal capacities to fully meet their needs as well as cover all needs that the government may have neglected due to marginalization. Based on the studies conducted globally, regionally, and globally, the positive influence of community participation of CBOs in the rural development process has been identified. However, there is a need for more studies to be conducted to clarify and ascertain this alternative development framework in other rural areas, such as Mwingi North Constituency, which is the focus of this study.

The objective of the Study

To investigate the influence of community participation of CBOs on rural community development in Mwingi North constituency.

Research Hypothesis

H_0: There is no significant relationship between community participation of CBOs and rural community development projects.

Literature Review

Participatory development theory

Participatory development theory is essential in the development of this study as it defines and describes participation as an integral approach to community development. According to Campbell, participatory development theory describes the process among communities or people living in a shared location and the need to pursue these needs collectively (Campbell, 2003) [5]. They actively develop mitigation strategies and make decisions that will help them address their needs. On the other hand, Richard argues that participation is an approach that enables the development of communities. Through popular participation, people and communities are empowered as they collectively work together to create structures and develop policies that work to their benefit and development. Community participation is an ingredient to rural community development (Richard, 2014) [44].

CBOs provide the channel and platform for community members to come together and address their issues exhaustively. Campbell outlines four main elements and aspects that define community participation, namely cognitive, political, instrumental, and social participation. Cognitive participation ensures that people are equipped with knowledge and skills that help them acquire skills to develop creative roles and systems meant to enhance community development (Campbell, 2003) [5]. Secondly, political participation is essential in development as the poor and powerless people and communities are legit and can easily achieve development. Instrumental participation, on the other hand, describes the projects and developmental activities communities develop to increase their economic livelihood as well as empowerment and development. Finally, social participation measures the degree and extent to which an individual is present in social groups and commits to collective responsibilities. These types of participation are present in CBOs as they provide a platform that communities can engage in them effectively (Richard, 2014) [44]. According to the World Bank, community participation is a necessity that enables both public and private corporations to attain development. Moreover, the WB identifies the importance of genuine participation among community members in the quest to achieve development. Genuine participation involves joint decision-making, shared control, and collaborative empowerment. Thus, for high and substantial rural community development, communities must work together. Community members should be actors and drivers of the projects and developmental activities rather than playing the beneficiary role, which is passive participation. The World Bank thus, recommends that community members must participate actively rather than passively for substantial development to

be realized (WB, 2013) [54].

Empirical review

A study done in 2010 by Caledon Institute of social policy on community-based organizations poverty reduction in Canada revealed important interventions in the CBOs in poverty reduction, including meeting basic needs, building skills, removing barriers, and promoting economic development. The study had activities that CBOs focused on rural development. The activities aimed at poverty alleviation, which includes business improvement activities, recruitment of new industries, community reinvestment strategies, credit unions, local investment funds, to mention a few. Moreover, a study carried out in Bangladesh found that some of the developmental programs facilitated through CBOs have enhanced access to service delivery, management of natural resources, community empowerment, and the development of rural infrastructure. (Thompson, 2013) [48]. CBOs contribute to the economic development of many developing countries. A study carried out in India found that CBOs were engaged in economic activities that improved the level of disposable income in local areas (Khatak, 2008). Another study on the role of CBOs in transforming the lives of the people found that recommendable efforts were made in local resource mobilization. Through that, CBOs have a significant effect on the attainment of sustainable development of the rural people (Miriti, 2009). A study done to access the effects of CBOs in Mwatate Kenya 2018 found that CBOs provide a forum where groups or communities decide and act on an issue, which can best be solved through collective action. CBOs provided collaborative learning and sharing experiences, and confidence-building. The process of community empowerment was found that it was only possible through CBOs as they consolidated collective capacity (Mulwa, 2010). Further, more politically, the CBOs provide a fertile ground for the consolidation of democratic civil society. Economically, CBOs can be a base for launching economic empowerment of a community as members pull meager resources together for the common good. This had been demonstrated in the findings as most of the CBOs pulled their meager income through table banking and the merry-go-round concept and benefitted from this through loans and savings.

Research Methodology

The study used a cross-sectional survey, which is the collection of data at a specific point in time from one or more population. This was appropriate to get information at one point in time in order to describe the characteristics of the sample. The target population of this study comprised of 54 registered water CBOs appearing on the CBO register of District Development Officer (DDO), Mwingi North constituency. The CBOs have a total of 3270 members. It adopted stratified random sampling and purposive sampling to include a sample of 327 respondents. The sampling techniques that was used in selecting the sample population included stratified random sampling and purposive sampling. All the water CBO projects were sampled. Among the respondents selected purposively, included 3 administrators of the three CBOs from each sub - County. The study used a questionnaire survey as the main method of data collection. This is because; it is appropriate and commonly used for non-observable type of data for instance feelings and perceptions of the respondents (Ponto, 2015) [42]. A pilot test was done in Masinga sub-County in order to test the appropriateness of research instruments for the study. This test is instrumental in detecting potential errors, limitations, or weaknesses present in the interview design, which further helps the researcher to amend and make necessary revisions before implementing of the study. The questionnaires were tested for objectivity, validity and reliability by conducting a Pilot study on 10 % of the targeted population. Thirty three members were sampled. The researcher adopted content validity to check whether the objectives are represented in the research instruments. The researcher involved the educational research department at Jomo Kenyatta university of Agriculture and Technology to validate the instruments. The instruments were validated through expert judgment. The validation of the instruments check the responses in the tools in relation to the research objectives and ascertain whether the response actually answer the research questions. The researcher employed the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to calculate the reliability of the instruments. Table 3.2 presents the reliability coefficient of the variables.

Table 1: Reliability Coefficients of the Variables

Variable	Items	Reliability Coefficients
Role of community CBOs on Community water access	5	0.731
Role of capacity building	5	0.720
Role of management	7	0.753
Community Participation	11	0.725
Rural Community Development	7	0.732
Composite Coefficients		0.732

The study employed the split-half reliability method. Split-half technique involved splitting the instrument into odd-numbered questions and even-number questions. The scores from the two split-halves were then correlated. The researcher then obtained the results of the correlation coefficients for the two halves using the Cronbach's Alpha which measured the internal consistency of the instrument. According to Creswell, (2014), an instrument is deemed reliable if the alpha coefficient is at least 0.7 or more. The study observed that the instrument was reliable as the composite coefficient obtained was greater than 0.7. The data collected was both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Once the data was acquired, qualitative data underwent the transcription process to determine whether there were potential omissions or any incompleteness and ensure the data was complete and consistent (Miles, 2014) [32]. Various processes were used to analyze the data, namely the editing to eliminate marginal errors, cleaning the information to ensure completeness, transformation, and tabulation of the information and data collected. There was the coding of open-ended questions where responses were sorted as per emerging themes. The thematic areas were coded using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences Software (SPSS version 31). When presenting the data, the study used descriptive statistics of averages and median and presented data in charts, tables and figures. Inferential statistics of Correlation, Regression and ANOVA were also used to analyse the data.

Results and Findings

Response rate

The sample size drawn from the target population was 327

who were issued with questionnaires. All the questionnaires were duly filled in correctly and returned. The results of the questionnaire return rate are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Instrument return rate

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Returned Responses	327	100
Non-Responses	0	0
Total	327	100.0

The questionnaire return rate in Table 2 achieved was 100% which is sufficient as supported by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), who recommend that for social sciences, a return rate of 70% and above of the study is appropriate for data analysis to proceed.

Distribution of respondents by gender

In this section, the researcher sought to establish the gender of the respondents. The responses are shown in figure 1.

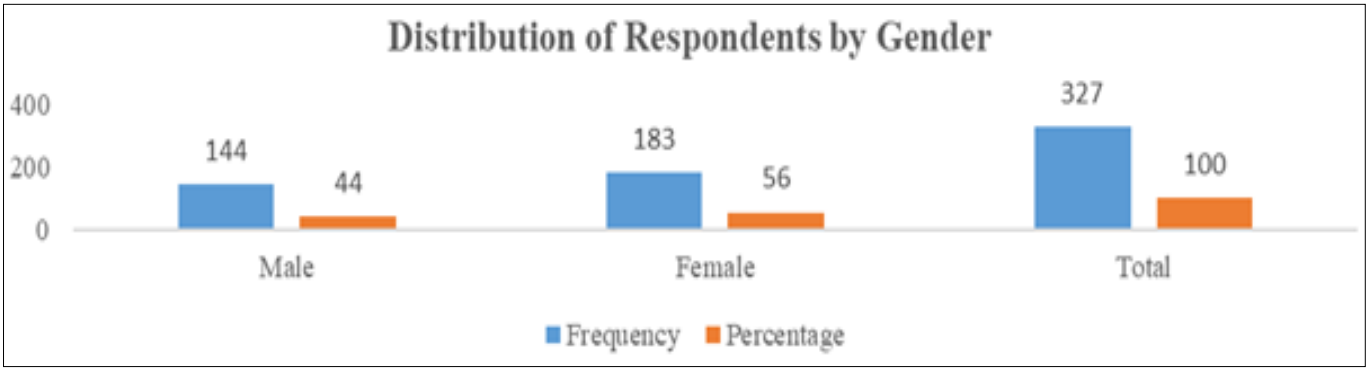

Fig 1: Gender distribution of respondents

The study results in figure 4.2 on gender indicate that 144 (44.0%) of the respondents were male, with 183 (56.0%) of the respondents being female. These findings show that majority of the respondents who were of the female gender were involved in the community and especially water projects. This finding implies that women engage more in rural community development than men in Mwingi North constituency.

Distribution of respondents by age

The respondents' age bracket was also explored in this study, where the respondents were asked to indicate their ages. The study findings are as indicated in figure 2.

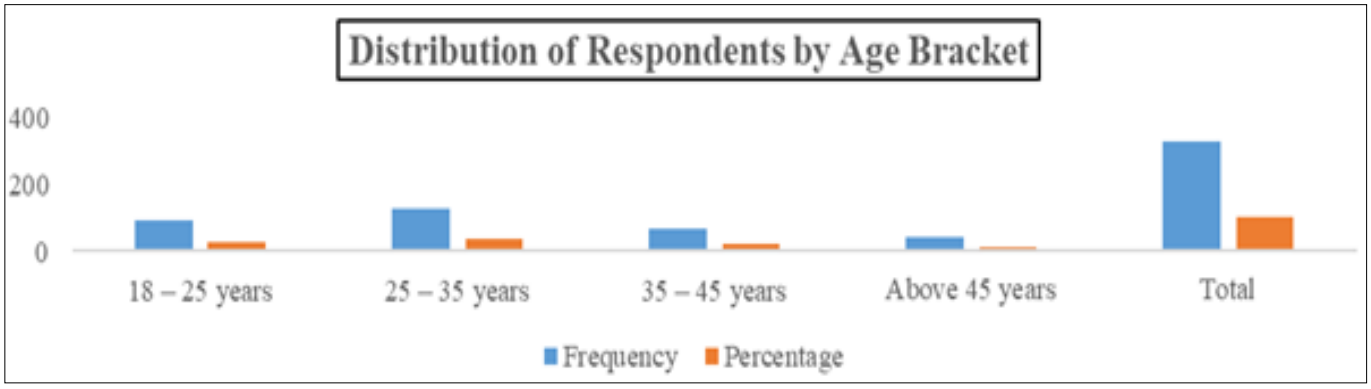

Fig 2: Distribution of respondents by Age

On the distribution of respondents by age, the findings of the study indicated that out of the 327 respondents who participated in the study, those below 25 years were 91 (27.8%), between 25-35 years 128 (39.1%), between 35-45 years were 68 (20.8%) and finally above 45 years 40 (12.2%).

The findings indicate that rural community development and implementation of water projects attracted respondents of different ages but specifically those heavily involved were between the ages of 18-35 years. This implies that the majority of those involved are the youthful population who are energetic and can involve themselves in constructive community development.

Distribution of respondents by level of education

The researcher asked the respondents to indicate their level of education. Table 3 shows the summary of the responses.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by highest level of education

Highest level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Below Primary	1	0.3
Primary level education	35	10.7
Secondary level education	136	41.6
College	125	38.2
University	30	9.2
Total	327	100.0

On the distribution of respondents by the highest level of education, the findings showed that a majority of the respondents had attained secondary school level of education as the highest level of education at 136 (42.5%), followed by college level at 125 (38.2%) of the respondents. The primary level attracted only one respondent. About 30 respondents being represented by 9.2% of the respondents, had attained a university degree, indicating that a majority

who are the youth are knowledgeable and aware about issues pertaining rural community development and implementation of water projects. This implies that education is a very important tool in shaping social change and community development.

Distribution of respondents by name of group affiliation

The fourth demographic characteristic of respondents sought to obtain information of the distribution of respondents by the name of the group they subscribe to in their respective communities.

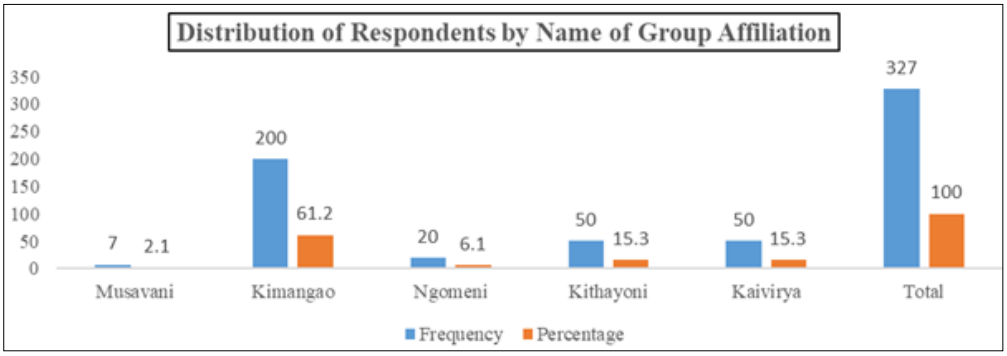

Fig 3

Distribution of respondents by group affiliation

Respondents from Musavani Community Based Organization were represented by 7 (2.1%) of the population whereas, Kimangao had the majority of the respondents 200 (61.2%) of the respondents. Ngomeni had 20 respondents being represented by 6.1%; Kithayoni and Kaivirya had 50 (15.3%) respectively. The findings indicate that most of the respondents were from the Kimangao area, which could imply that they were more engaged in issues of rural community development and the implementation of water projects.

Distribution of respondents by length and duration of membership

The last demographic characteristic focused on the respondents' length and duration of membership in their respective community-based organizations.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by length and duration of membership

Duration of membership	Frequency	Percentage
0 - 2 years	51	15.6
2 - 5 years	138	42.2
5 - 10 years	118	36.1
Over 10 years	20	6.1
Total	327	100.0

The results from Table 4 indicated that respondents with less than two years of the membership represented 51 (15.6%), between 2 - 5 years 138 (42.2%), between 5 - 10 years 118 (36.1%) and finally over ten years membership represented by 20 (6.1%) of the respondents. The findings imply that majority of the respondents had a membership duration of between 2 -10 years.

This indicates that respondents' value membership and representation in the community-based organizations, as supported by 78.3% of the respondents.

Descriptive statistics

Community participation of CBOs on rural community development

Descriptive analysis for community participation on rural community development in Mwingi North constituency was conducted to obtain the frequency distribution, percentages, mean and standard deviation. Table 5 below summarizes the descriptive statistics.

Table 5: Community participation and rural community development

Statements	5	4	3	2	1	Mean	SDV
You are well versed with all the projects in your CBOs	193 (59.0)	87 (26.6)	17 (5.2)	14 (4.3)	16 (4.9)	3.94	0.877
The problem being addressed by the CBO is among the major problems in this community	194 (59.3)	94 (28.7)	18 (5.5)	15 (4.6)	6 (1.8)	4.01	0.732
You took part in the pinpointing of problems facing the community	195 (59.6)	93 (28.4)	22 (6.7)	9 (2.8)	8 (2.4)	3.95	0.825
Some of the community members are employed in the projects	189 (57.8)	94 (28.7)	13 (4.0)	16 (4.9)	15 (4.6)	3.87	0.899
The resources used in the project are from the community	184 (56.3)	96 (29.4)	22 (6.7)	12 (3.7)	13 (4.0)	3.89	0.881
You have contributed some of the resources towards the project	194 (59.3)	84 (25.7)	24 (7.3)	21 (6.4)	4 (1.2)	3.94	0.821
Management discusses with the members on every step of the projects	195 (59.6)	91 (27.8)	21 (6.4)	16 (4.9)	4 (1.2)	4.06	0.538
Community ideas are highly recognized	189 (57.8)	92 (28.1)	24 (7.3)	15 (4.6)	7 (2.1)	3.94	0.609

The projects are considered very safe in community	187 (57.2)	77 (23.5)	28 (8.6)	15 (4.6)	20 (6.1)	3.80	0.718
Community members own their project	194 (59.3)	80 (24.5)	29 (8.9)	14 (4.3)	10 (3.1)	3.89	0.614
Ideas from community members are accepted and utilized	193 (59.0)	92 (28.1)	22 (6.7)	11 (3.4)	9 (2.8)	4.03	0.608
Composite Mean						3.93	0.738

Statement number 1 for the study sought to determine whether community members are well versed with all the projects in your CBOs. The results from Table 35 indicate that 193 (59.0%) strongly agreed, 87 (26.6%) agreed, 17 (5.2%) were neutral, 14 (4.3%) disagreed and 16 (4.9%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.877 respectively. When compared to the composite mean (3.93), the statement implies that the line item of the variable has a positive contribution to the predictor variable, as supported by 85.6% who agreed.

Statement number 2; the problem being addressed by the CBO is among the major problems in this community; the study obtained the following results; 194 (59.3%) strongly agreed, 94 (28.7%) agreed, 18 (5.5%) were neutral, 15 (4.6%) disagreed and those who strongly disagreed 6 (1.8%) with a mean and standard deviation of 4.01 and 0.732 respectively. This implies that the statement contributes positively to the variable and influences the predictor variable being supported by 88.0% of the respondents.

The third statement obtained the following results as per the findings on Table 35; 195 (59.6%) strongly agreed, 93 (28.4%) agreed, 2 2 (6.7%) were neutral about the statement, 9 (2.8%) disagreed, and 8 (2.4%) strongly disagreed with a mean and standard deviation of 3.95 and 0.825 respectively. The findings indicate that partaking in pointing out the issues and problems facing the community contributes to community participation. This is evidenced by the line item positively contributing to the predictor variable compared to the composite mean of 3.93.

The findings on the fourth line item statement revealed that some of the community members are employed in the projects. The line item mean indicated 3.87 with a standard deviation of 0.899. The findings, however, show that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statement. The results indicate that 189 (57.8%) strongly agreed, 94 (28.7%) agreed, 13 (4.0%) were neutral, 16 (4.9%) disagreed and 15 (4.6%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.87 and 0.899 respectively.

Statement number 5: The resources used in the project are from the community. The findings were as follows; 184 (56.3%) strongly agreed, 96 (29.4%) agreed, 22 (6.7%) were neutral, 12 (3.7%) disagreed and 13 (4.0%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.89 and 0.881 respectively. The findings indicate that there were divergent views on whether resources used in projects are obtained from the community. The line item has a negative contribution to the predictor variable since the composite mean (M=3.89) is less than the line item mean at 3.93.

The sixth statement of the variable on whether members contribute some of the resources towards the project. The descriptive statistics obtained was; 194 (59.3%) strongly agreed, 84 (25.7%) agreed, 24 (7.3%) were neutral, 21 (6.4%) disagreed and 4 (1.2%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.821 respectively. The findings indicate that the line item positively influences the predictor variable, as supported by 84.4% of the respondents.

Statement number 7, management discusses with the members on every step of the projects, the results obtained were as follows; 195 (59.6%) of the respondents indicated strong agreement, 91 (27.8%) were in agreement, 21 (6.4%) were neutral, 16 (4.9%) were in disagreement whereas 4 (1.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean score obtained was 4.06 and standard deviation 0.538, which were both higher than the composite mean and standard deviation. The results show that most of the respondents agreed with the statement being represented by 86.8%.

Statement number 8; community ideas are highly recognized. The results indicate that 189 (57.8) strongly agreed, 92 (28.1%) agreed, 24 (7.3%) were neutral, 15 (4.6%) disagreed and 7 (2.1%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.609 respectively. When compared to the composite mean of 3.93, the statement implies that there were convergent views on community ideas being taken into consideration by the project team. The statement has a positive contribution on the variable since the statement mean is greater than the composite mean and as supported by 85.9% of the respondents who agreed.

Statement number 9, the projects are considered very safe in the community, the findings obtained were; 187 (57.2%) strongly agreed, 77 (23.5%) agreed, 28 (8.6%) were neutral, 15 (4.6%) disagreed and 20 (6.1%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.80 and 0.718 respectively. The mean score of the line item was 3.80, which was less than the composite mean (M=3.93), which implied that there were different views pertaining to the statement that the researcher needs to review.

Statement 10 of the variable; community members own their project.

The line item mean indicated 3.89 with a standard deviation of 0.614. The results indicate that 194 (59.3%) strongly agreed, 80 (24.5%) agreed, 29 (8.9%) were neutral, 14 (4.3%) disagreed and 10 (3.1%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.89 and 0.614 respectively.

This implies that most of the respondents had divergent views about the statement; however, the majority of the respondents (87.4%) agreed on the statement.

The findings obtained from statement 11; sought to find out if Ideas from community members are accepted and utilized. The results were as follows; 193 (59.0%) strongly agreed, 92 (28.1%) agreed, 22 (6.7%) were neutral, 11 (3.4%) disagreed and 9 (2.8%) strongly disagreed with a mean and a standard deviation of 3.91 and 0.518 respectively. The findings indicate that these projects are very vital to the respondents, as supported by the converging views from the respondents who agreed (87.1%)

Correlation Analysis of Community Participation of CBOs and Rural Community Development

Table 6: Correlation analysis between role of community participation and rural community development

Variable		Community Participation	Rural Community Development
Community Participation	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-Tailed) N	1 327	0.549** 0.000 327

The results in Table 6 revealed that there is a moderate positive correlation of 0.549 between the role of community participation and rural community development, which indicates a significant relationship with a p-value of 0.000, which is less than the test level of significance 0.05. This indicates that role of community participation has a significant relationship with the response variable rural community development in Mwingi North constituency, Kenya.

Table 7: Model summary for role of community participation and rural community development

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the estimate
1	0.549[a]	0.301	0.298	1.85496

Predictors (Constant), Role of Community Participation

The model summary for the results on community participation and rural community development presented in Table 7 explains the extent to which the predictor variable accounts for the overall variability of the model. The R Square is given as 0.301, indicating that role of community participation contributes to 30.1% of the variations of the dependent variable rural community development in Mwingi North constituency, Kenya. This indicates that other factors which were not considered in this model accounted for 69.9%. The study concluded that role of community participation has a significant influence on rural community development in Mwingi North constituency, Kenya.

Table 8: ANOVA for community participation and rural community development

Factor	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	719.405	1	719.405	41.714	0.000[b]
Residual	5604.950	325	17.246		
Total	6324.355	326			

a. Dependent Variable: Rural Community Development.
b. Predictors: (Constant) Community Participation

Analysis of variance was used to establish the goodness of fit of the regression model in Table 8. It was established that the F-significance value of 0.000 was less than 0.05 ($p<0.05$). The F-ratio was significant, $F_{(1, 325)} = 41.714$ was significantly larger than the critical value of F=3.86. This shows that the model was significant.

Summary, conclusions and recommendations

Demographic summary

The study established that the demographic characteristics of the respondents contributed to rural community development. Distribution of respondents by gender established that majority of the respondents 183 (56%) who were of the female gender were involved in community and especially water projects. On the distribution of respondents by gender, the findings indicate that those who were involved in rural community development were between the ages of 18 - 35 years. Similarly, distribution of respondents by level of education, a majority of the respondents indicated they had attained secondary education level and above.

Conclusions

The results from the study concluded that there was a moderate positive correlation between community participation and rural community development in Mwingi North constituency. The mean of mean and the standard deviation of the variable were 3.94 and 0.738, respectively. The research obtained the following results from the analysis between community participation and rural community development; $R=0.549$, $R^2=0.301$, $\beta=4.704$, $t=6.686$, $F_{(1,325)} = 41.714$, $p<0.05$.

It was established that community participation of CBOs explained 30.1% of the variations in rural community development in Mwingi North constituency. This implied that involvement of stakeholders in CBO project, significant project problems concerning the community, addressing problems and allocation of resources; involvement in consultation processes in the community and idea generation and utilization in the community are significant as indicators in community participation that influence rural community development. The study concluded that community participation has a significant influence on rural community development.

Recommendations

1. The study also established that community participation of CBOs significantly influences rural community development in Kenya.
   The community participation component is very vital and should never be ignored. It is a powerful tool that should not be overlooked but should be prudently applied whenever a community project is being carried out.
   It creates a sense of ownership of the projects. One will be responsible for what they have been involved in.
2. It is imperative for the CBOs to involve the community members in all community projects. CBOs board ought to ensure that there is thorough participation by all stakeholders covering the identification, screening and selection of the project for implementation. Community participation of CBOs ought also to be carried out when developing baseline plans for the budget and schedule as well as in implementation and control.

Suggestions for Further Studies

The study made the following suggestions for further studies;

1. Factors influencing sustainability of ground water management in the ASAL regions in Kenya.

Influence of stakeholder participation in community water resources management in Kitui County, Kenya

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