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Abstract

Project execution has a great impact on the sustainability of growth and expansion of projects in the world. Several studies have been conducted to examine the project implementation success in different ways, including a time limit, money, client satisfaction, and effectiveness. The core objective of this study was to assess the influence of public participation in implementing development projects in Kasarani constituency in Nairobi City County. The study was guided by two theories public participation theory and project management theory. The study employed a descriptive research design and a random sampling method. A sample size of 254 respondents were used. Data collection was conducted using semi-structured questionnaires on online forums and others provided physically to the respondents. Data was captured in Excel for longevity and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 21.0. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data. From results, the study established that there was a statistically significant influence of public participation on project implementation, implying that an increase in public participation leads to an increase in project implementation. The study concludes that a positive increase in public participation leads to an increase in Project Implementation. It was recommended that the government should also increase the accessibility of project implementation information to the public to facilitate the accountability claims from the public to the people responsible.

Keywords: *Public Participation, Project implementation, development projects, Kasarani Constituency, Nairobi City County*

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1.0 Study Background

Project implementation has a tremendous effect on the sustainability of growth and the expansion of projects globally. It is essential to recognize that development projects, especially roads, have played a critical role in linking the functions of the communities in countries around the world. The World Banks' (2013) report notes that every project has a definite life cycle that is only accomplished when the project's desired goals have been attained and bringing a project to a close. Project implementation has emerged to be a central focus of improvement efforts today since organizations have realized the criticality of projects to their sustainable success. Gasik (2016) posits that project managers have an integrative impact on development projects. The pertinent requirements in some nations are formulated, and only individuals who fulfill these requirements may be responsible for managing public projects. The public project managers are deemed fit for this task based on three key areas: general project management skills, knowledge of local realities, and knowledge of the applicable regulation.

From a global perspective, the success of project implementation has been viewed in many diverse ways. In its simplest terms, the project implementation success has been examined in terms of four basic facets: time, money, effectiveness, and client satisfaction (Abdi & Gakuu, 2018). It sounds reasonable if any assessment of the success of project implementation can at least take into account these four measures, among others. In developed nations like America, the success and effectiveness of project implementations seem to have been achieved, though still with some concerns among researchers and project management specialists. According to Gasik (2016), devolution and decentralization of project operations and implementation have to take place for projects to benefit the whole population of every nation across the world. As an illustration, in the USA, attaining political and social stability called for a close connection between the development leaders, religious leaders, political leaders, strategic planners, and project managers with the people at the grassroots (Gasik, 2016). It is further maintained that the county administration plays a vital role in identifying, planning, resourcing for, and implementing the projects of counties.

In China, various successes in project implementation are attributed to the project sponsors and project management than to the public participation (Zhao, Hui-Jie, Xing & Shu-Lan, 2017). While the country is known for being a communist republic, public participation is a major element in the decision-making process. Much of the decision-making happens with the authorities. Moreover, the poor decision-making on the investment policies has resulted in many malinvestments, resulting in little or no return to the public. However, the top-down decision-making process has enhanced increased rewards to the public in project implementation (Enserink & Alberton, 2016). The long-term project planning by the Chinese government has improved the project implementation forums (Malaurent & Avison, 2015). The Chinese government's significant success has shown the government's ability to aim higher and follow through with the necessary funding and ensure the implementation of the projects.

In India, developed units have also played a role in identifying projects, looking for resources, and executing them (Al-Rashidi, 2009). These roles came into effect after India's government realized its development based on the rise in the population; it called for public-private partnerships (PPP) between major infrastructural projects between the private sector and the government. Nonetheless, it was not possible to do this from the central government due to the geographical size and the location of the projects, varying needs of development projects among

the Indians, and the cultural differences between communities in the nation. As a result, India's government was compelled to establish decentralized operations, which brought about the country's classification into councils equated to the county councils aimed at managing people.

South Africa is in the process of radical change, as postulated by Abdi and Gakuu (2018). The government organizations have sought to rethink their strategies, adjust their management practices, and redesign their structures to anticipate frequent transformations and respond to the anticipated demands. Such a mechanism has been the product of the strategic management process. Despite all these achievements, there is still a feeling among the researchers that the success and the effectiveness of project implementations have not been fully attained in African nations. Nigeria is an example of reduced cases of success and effectiveness of project implementation among African nations. According to Igwe & Ude (2018), Nigeria has well and brilliantly formulated strategies but ineffectively implemented projects by the government. The main reasons are institutional mediocrity in project execution, vision deficiency, and inadequate budgetary allocations resulting in high costs in project financing and corruption in the long run. The government has a huge gap between the formulated policy goals and the achievement of those goals leading to failure in almost all facets of the public administration system in the country.

In the East African region, Tanzania is among the countries that have embarked on various reforms and initiatives of development for the last fifteen years. These initiatives have resulted in substantial shifts in the practices of local developments. Notably, the local government system reforms in Tanzania have taken place as part of broader policy reforms to achieve political and economic liberalization. United Republic of Tanzania (2009) reports that there has been a need for understanding the significance of the current initiatives and reforms for local development against the country's first twenty years of independence. In this case, local development approaches have been anchored on socialism and modernization attempts that are centrally driven. It is worth noting that Tanzania has made key reforms by replacing the parliamentary system of governance with the local government administration, which has set by-laws of relevance to a range of states or councils of local government. As a result, there have been notable funding identification and execution of development projects in mainland Tanzania and the Zanzibar Islands, as noted by Tsekpo & Hudson (2012). These studies reveal that the East African countries face the challenge of implementing their projects due to insufficient funds and mismanagement of finances.

From a national perspective, Kenya has several factors which have immensely affected the successful implementation of development projects. A study conducted by World Bank (2012) established these factors as the political environment; financial embezzlement; misplaced priorities; corruption, low levels of technology, and tribalism, among others. The introduction of the devolution agenda sought to bring relevant development projects to deserving needy individuals in slums, the marginalized areas, and villages in the nation to address these issues. The Republic of Kenya report (2014) notes that Kenya has significantly improved its infrastructural, mining, education, water, and industrialization after promulgating the new constitution. Today, the 47 counties in the country own their projects and development plans, finance part of their projects, and obtain the financial support for the deficit budgets from the central government (the Republic of Kenya, 2014). However, the study conducted by Ogutu and Muturi (2017) has established that the performance in the course of the execution of projects in the counties is increasingly not meeting the public's expectations, as mentioned earlier. Mulewa

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et al. (2019) cite lack of finance as one of the challenges affecting the implementation of large projects, especially those involving youths in productive activities of different parts of the country, with a specific focus on Mombasa County. Overall, the projects undertaken at a national level have faced many challenges, including lack of finances and embezzlement of funds meant for the projects by political leaders.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Politics has increasingly become one of the critical issues in the successful implementation of development projects in Kenya. The Republic of Kenya (2014) reports that despite Nairobi City County (NCC) implementing its development projects like roads and housing, there are still issues like poor infrastructure, poor support from the county management, corruption, and low-level technology that may have led to the failure of such projects as a result of political influence. Abdi and Gakuu (2018) suggest that a poor political system has resulted in many projects failing or being uncompleted. Yet, a lot of money from the citizens, who are the taxpayers, has been used on them.

The political system has affected the development projects in terms of the misuse and misappropriation of public resources in the constituencies, which have become a national and local concern (Ochieng, 2012). It is worth noting that most counties have paid millions of money on projects that have since stalled (Abdi & Gakuu, 2018). Some of the counties affected include Nairobi City County, Bungoma County, Nyamira County, Nyandarua County, Kiambu County, and Garissa County, among others where development projects have been subjected to corruption and unethical conduct (Abdi & Gakuu, 2018). In NCC, many constituencies such as Kasarani Constituency have been found to have issues with the implementation and the successful completion of projects as there are no well-established project management practices (Lemarleni et al., 2017). The County of Nairobi has seen some projects, including road networks, hospitals, and building classrooms, fail because of the politics. Close inspection of these issues reveals that the political system has contributed to either the success or failure to implement such projects (Government of Kenya, 2013).

While researchers have pointed the influence of strategies and governance to the project implementation in government, much is restrained on the role played by politics in influencing project management or implementation, especially in countries such as NCC. However, the various instances of political instability in the case of 2007 post-election violence, have pointed to the significant influence politics play in the project implementation in the country. Existing research does not show evidence of engaging the local communities to give their views, challenges, priorities, and needs regarding the impact of the political system on the implementation of development projects which may have derailed any attempt to appraise the work of the government from a qualitative perspective. According to Abdi & Gakuu (2018), project monitoring, stakeholder involvement, and budgetary allocation are the main factors influencing the implementation of the government project. However, they note that project monitoring and stakeholder involvement are essential factors that determine the success of the project implementation. Additionally, the previous studies have generally focused on factors that influence project implementation, not concentrating specifically on the impact of politics and the implementation of projects. This study sought to examine influence of public participation in implementing development projects in Kasarani constituency in Nairobi City County.

1.2 Research Objective

To assess the influence of public participation in implementing development projects in Kasarani constituency in Nairobi City County.

1.3 Research Question

What is the effect of public participation in the implementation of development projects in the Kasarani constituency in Nairobi City County?

1.4 Conceptual Framework

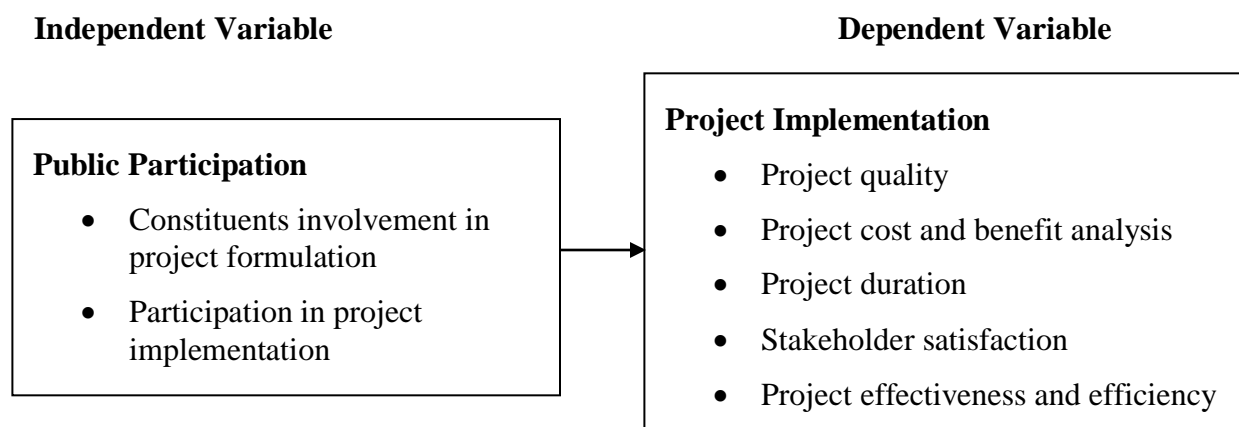


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

2.1 Theoretical Review

This section examined the theories pertinent to politics and implementation of development projects. It gives an evaluation of the theories in which the evaluation of the study objectives are based.

2.1.1 Public Participation Theory

Public participation theory postulates that those affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process. Public participation consists in seeking and facilitating the involvement of the stakeholders in a decision in relation to individuals, institutions, governments, companies, and various entities with public interests (Carpentier, 2016). The theory holds that the public's contribution affects the decision-making process. In a democratic decision-making process, public participation is essential. This is an effective way to ensure direct involvement of citizens and an opportunity to air their voices in public decisions. In various institutions, there is a minimal inclusion of the public in decision-making with the claim of it being expensive and time-consuming (Mohamed, 2009). However, most of the concepts on public involvement in decision aiming were initiated to respond to the public reaction to a proposed action or project. The theory is drawn from positivity through information and ideas on general issues, public support in decision planning, protracted conflicts, costly delays avoidance, increased cooperation between the agency and the public, and a reservoir of goodwill to carry to future decisions.

Public participation theory can be traced back to ancient Greece and colonial New England. One of the most quoted and famous works on the subject is still an essay by Sherry Arnstein in 1969. She envisioned a "ladder" with increased influence and power on decision-making in government. Her approach reflected the focus on social dynamics and power for excluded groups during the Movement for Civil Rights in the United States and other Community organizing activities (Carpentier, 2016). Sherry's illustration of citizen participation noted that absolute control is misleading, and any democratic society should embrace the changes that would include the people's voice. In her disposition, she stipulates that redistribution is effective in helping the less privileged in the society who have been excluded in various political and economic processes to be included deliberately in the planning of their future. It enables the less privileged or the vulnerable to join in determining the sharing of information, setting goals and policies, allocating taxes, operating programs, and parceling out of benefits such as patronages and contracts.

The main concern in the development of public participation theory is the glaring difference in stating that democracy gives people power while some people hardly have their voices heard (Biegelbauer & Hansen, 2011). The evident gap in going through an empty ritual of participation and having the real power from participation affects the process outcomes. French students in 1968 reiterated the same in their posters which highlighted the main problem in participation as a ritual. They indicated that participation without power redistribution is an empty and frustrating process for the less privileged or the vulnerable in society. The proponents of public participation theory state that the involvement of people should ensure they have the power to make a change in the decision-making process (Meno, 2016). Without the power to the less privileged, the power holders will only claim that all the sides are considered, with the resultant project only benefiting some of those sides. Such cases only maintain the status quo.

Inclusivity in decision making forms a major step in ensuring credibility of various development projects. Bourne and Walker (2011) in their study "Knowledge management reflection," suggest this theory to show the need for all actors to participate in achieving the success of a project. The theory postulates that the creation and the ongoing operations of every project result from a vast range of activities of different actors known as stakeholders. The theory further suggests that the success of a project involves the aspects of quality, cost, time, effective management, and satisfaction of all the stakeholders taking part in that project (Bourne & Walker, 2011). It will be important to apply this theory in examining how the participation of different stakeholders, such as political leaders, relates to the successful implementation of development projects.

The success of project management also depends on the participation of different stakeholders involved in the project. As Eskerod and Vaagaasar (2014) suggested in their study "Stakeholder management strategies and practices during a project course," sponsors, political leaders, constituents, and other stakeholders play a critical role in the project management practices. According to these authors, there is a need for project managers to establish a political game plan to manage these stakeholders in pursuit of mitigating the derailment of development projects at a county or national level (Eskerod & Vaagaasar, 2014). It is further suggested that the top management stands a better chance of helping the project team address any issues arising when undertaking a project.

According to this theory, it is evident that the county government has a role to play in planning and executing development projects as a requirement of the Physical Planning Act (Bourne &

Walker, 2011). The overall responsibility for local, national, and regional physical development strategies, policies, and guidelines and the preparation of all local and regional physical development plans belongs to the Department of Physical Planning in the Ministry of Lands and Settlement. Ogutu and Muturi (2017) in their research "The factors influencing successful completion of road construction projects in Kenya," carried out in Kisumu County, establishes that the major function of the Department of Physical Planning has been to generate the plans of physical development. The department is represented at district and provincial levels. This department operates closely with local authorities in the aspects of physical planning within municipal borders. Besides, the Urban Development Department in the Ministry of Local Government also offers guidance and gives technical aid to local authorities. The department liaises with the other stakeholders to formulate and execute urban development growth strategies and policies (Ogutu & Muturi, 2017). Notably, there has been a problem with institutional capacity at the local authority level. Consequently, many local authorities cannot exercise the powers conferred on and carry out the functions assigned to them as stated in the Physical Planning Act.

Other studies have presented findings indicating that there has been a meaningful contribution to the development projects, which is greatly reliant on the community's spontaneous participation in them. It is further established that making any development program successful requires a cross-section of individuals. Gasik (2016) further argues that most African societies traditionally and culturally have people who are a particularly socially enlightened class, in which females are non-participatory. It has been found that the socially enlightened class is associated with self-centeredness and always seeks to shun involvement in the existing practices that need their participation. They instead think of it as an unnecessary hassle.

Noting the greater strengths established as far as this theory is concerned, some studies have raised concerns about disparities in the knowledge gap regarding the public's participation in development projects. Bourne and Walker (2011) argue that relying on the theory of public participation alone cannot guarantee project success because of the several barriers associated with the involvement of the public. Most studies of public participation theory have ignored this vital know-how of the barriers of participation such as time and financial costs, uncertainty regarding public participation, professional elitism, and absence of skills and interests among planners and proponents, among others (Gasik, 2016). Because of this limitation, there is a need for another theory that will address not only the issues of public participation in the development projects but also the matters related to project management.

2.1.2 Project Management Theory

The theory of project management was established by Henry Gantt and Henri Fayol in the 1950s, whose contributions are still recognized in modern project planning and management (Prieto, 2015). Prieto (2015) in his study titled "Project management theory and the management of large complex projects, " Defines project management as the practice of starting, planning, implementing, controlling, and closing the work done by a group or a team to attain specific objects and meet specific criteria of success at a specified time. This theory is important as it will guide how the project execution will be attained based on the aspects of quality, cost, and duration of the project (Prieto, 2015). Also, funding allocation is considered a necessary factor for the implementation of development projects.

The project management theory has been looked at in terms of project execution as well as project control. The theory involves a managerial role and an effector role in the project (Prieto, 2015). The core function of the managerial part is planning, while the effector part's primary role is the translation of the final plan into action. This theory presumes that the translation of a plan into action is a process completed by simply following the directions. Armenakis (2013), in his study "Current practice in project management - an empirical study," points out that the theory of execution is based on the fact that, from a managerial perspective, execution or implementation entails dispatching tasks to the stations of work. This theory asserts that when the time arrives as planned to start the execution of a project, there is authorization to commence, either in writing or in speech. This theory is important as it will provide the guideline on the project management practices such as the implementation, whose success is dependent on a myriad of factors.

It is not surprising that the governments are now becoming more interested in project management than ever before in pursuit of dealing with the perennial failure of project implementations. For instance, governments like the US government have closely taken part in developing project management techniques and models for more than fifty years (Kuster *et al.*, 2015). Notably, the continuing professionalization of the area of project management and the increased impact of professional associations via credentialism and training. Derives substantial support and gets moral legitimacy from this perceived function in safeguarding the interests of the public and bringing about the effective use of public funds.

In project management theory, it entails what needs to be done, the people involved, the actions and activities required, and the time and cost of performing the task. Human activity is inherently situated such that the structured environmental nature contributes to purposeful acting. Which loosely translates to what people tend to do as the people within their circle of environment perform. In the political system, the action of project implementation faces the challenge of what will happen if people did not perform the implementation task. The complacency that comes with a lack of agility and desire to perform the task makes the various projects lie in ruins in the best ideas (Conforto, Amaral, da Silva, Di Felippo & Kamikawachi, 2016). Project implementation is facing political sabotage in their realization of their goals. Few, if none, care about their promises and projects that have been placed in their jurisdiction. The larger majority cares for the political propaganda and what makes them remain in power. The concerns with project implementation are a never-talked-about story.

Even though there has been a tremendous modification of the body of knowledge of project management over the past decade, the key debates are continuously shaping academic research and the discourses of practitioners regarding projects and project management. Prieto (2015) further points out that contemporary studies of the performance of projects keep showing the gap between the increasing body of project management thought and its application's effectiveness. This criticism arises based on the fact that there is rising visibility because of the claims concerning the failures of projects and project management and the dissatisfaction with the performance of projects and the outcomes by the stakeholders who are affected. Because of this gap, the public participation theory complements this theory.

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Public participation is a constitutional requirement indicated specifically in article 1 of the constitution of Kenya that the sovereign power belongs to the people. Public participation involves engaging with individuals, groups, and entities before decisions are made. The principal

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aim of public participation is to create an openness and link for dialogue from the onset of the project. It is meant to offer a voice to the voiceless and cements the notion of agency to the county government; that is, the County government becomes an agent of the people. Public participation is not intended to communicate previously adopted choices but to produce and confirm decisions. The actor will "take the guidance and direction" from the public, rather than a political process, but rather a non-party procedure. It is considered a crucial pillar in the Kenyan constitution as a tool for promoting democracy by involving the public in government decision-making processes. However, the public participation exercise has not been affected fully. Nyong'a and Gachanja (2021) note that people are less motivated to participate in government project implementation due to increased negative public perception of few implementations of the project.

Public participation in the political environment is becoming increasingly difficult, with various people assuming corruption and favoritism on government projects. The study by Siala (2015) about "Factors influencing public participation in the budget formulation: The case of Nairobi county" identifies various factors that affect public participation in government projects. The study found that participation or restraining from participation influences the government's utilization of the resources, which can be positive or negative. People participation involves the populace sharing power with the leaders in order to make decisions that will make a difference in their communities and start projects which are useful to them. People feel left out in the much-praised public participation even with the constitutional support. According to Munyao (2019), there are systemic gaps in the process of public participation that had an effect on the product of public participation and consequently compromising public accountability. Even with increased encouragement of the public to undertake public participation, there are still gaps such as lack of public participation Acts and public forum communication gaps that influence the public participation process. As Siala (2015) indicates, whenever public participation is enhanced, there is an increased possibility of government delivery to the people. Much of this can be effected through the decentralized system of governance.

Effective communication and resultant implementation of various discussed projects provide a hope for increased participation. Ketoyo (2017) in his study about "Influence of Public Participation on the Implementation of County Government Funded Projects: A Case of Nairobi County, Kenya," found that the: inadequate structured communication between the county agencies and the citizens, the general lack of transparency and accountability in communicating county government projects, lack of financial and management skills for stakeholder engagement, nepotism, poor organizational capacities and political interferences in public development projects were the main factors that hindered the level of public participation in the County of Nairobi. In a country that boasts of a better constitution elaborating on the roles of people in ensuring democracy in the government process, a campaign towards increased public participation would be prudent. The reduced engagement with people is the main reason behind the fewer implementation of government projects at national and subnational levels (Keshine, 2018).

According to the County Guidelines of Public Participation, in order to achieve effective and sustainable public involvement, counties and the government of Kenya have to guarantee that public participation is properly planned and financed. In order to prepare for participatory implementation, time and financial resources need to be provided in time (Mutwiri, 2016).

However, the country experiences reduced participation and financing of these activities due to increased corruption and politics.

3.0 Research Methodology

The descriptive survey design of the research was used in this study. This design focused on determining the relationship between variables or the frequency with which something takes place, as indicated by Bryman and Bell (2011). A descriptive design focussed on getting the information that describes existing phenomena by asking questions related to individual attitudes and perceptions concerning the subject being investigated. Creswell (2014) notes that a descriptive research design provides facts about nature and the status of a situation, the way it occurs at the time of research.

The study was conducted in Nairobi City County. The researcher worked with a study population that represented the entire research population. This research focussed on the Department of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education since they are the ministries that have attracted government funding for their development projects in the County of Nairobi City. In this study, the target population being county and constituency officials in Kasarani Constituency. According to the labour statistics Nairobi county had 14,082 employees (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2017). The choice of Kasarani Constituency is based on the fact that it has several ongoing road construction projects like the Mwiki-Kasarani Road, which has not been completed since the county government started implementing it. Also, Maternity hospital is one of the healthcare facilities in the constituency where the county government started implementing the initiative of free maternity for expectant mothers. The target population was drawn from the local population, including the county constituency management. The study's sample size was determined by the size of the target population, the confidence level, the standard of deviation, and the margin of error or, rather, the confidence interval.

To select the representative sample of each county, this study followed the formula proposed by Yamane (1967), since it is scientific and can be used in cases of large populations to calculate the sample size from the 14,082 population. However, the actual selection of respondents will be through simple random sampling.

Where:

n is the sample size

N is the population size – 14,082 **E** is the margin error – 5%.

=389

Yamane (1967) gave a simplified formula for proportions for calculating the sample size, with a confidence level of 95% and **p** = 0.5 and a 5% level of precision. The formula is as follows:

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

Where **n** stands for the sample size, **N** represents the population size, and **e** is the level of precision. The sample size of this study was 389 participants, and the sample size was determined by substituting the values of **N** = 14,082, **e** = 0.05 in the equation to get:

$$n = 14,082 / 1 + 14,082 (0.05)^2 = 389$$

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Qualitative methods of research were used to collect both primary and secondary data. Primary data is described as the kind of data gathered from first-hand sources by use of methods like surveys, experiments, and interviews (Monette *et al.*, 2013). In this research, the collection of primary data was by using the survey technique. Dwyer et al. (2012) describe secondary data as the data collected from published surveys and experiments performed by other researchers. In this study, the secondary data used was chosen based on their relevance to the main questions of the research. This kind of data was gathered from peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and other documents that have been published on the topic of study.

The quantitative data analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 21.0, and MS Excel computer package. The results were categorized, summarized, and presented using graphs and frequency distribution tables. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. To establish the recurrent relationship between the dependent and independent variables, content analysis was also used. The process comprised investigating the comments or statements by the respondents to examine the themes identified in this study to support the arguments in the presentation of the quantitative results.

4.0 Findings and Discussion

The response rate for the study was within the recommended levels. Out of the expected total of 389 questionnaires, in the end 254 were filled, coded and used for the analysis. This makes a 65.30% overall response rate. According to Kothari (2014), a response rate above 50% is acceptable in descriptive social science for effective analysis. Mugenda & Mugenda (2008) stipulated that a 50% response rate is adequate, 60% good and above and over 70% is considered very well. Therefore, a response rate of 65.30% was good. The demographic results revealed that mmmost respondents were female with a proportion of 51% while the male respondents were 49%. Majority of the respondents (31.08%) had 2 to 4 years work experience within the county, 27.03% had a 5 to 9years work experience, 15.54% had 10 to 14 years work experience, 14.19% had below 1 year work experience and the least (12.16%) were those with over 15 years work experience within Nairobi City County. From the results, it can be concluded that the respondents had a significant experience to understand the operations within Nairobi City County and the constituencies within. Moreover, the respondents were highly educated with a more significant percentage having attained a diploma. Majority (32%) had bachelor's degree, 28% had diploma, 19% had master's degree, 11% had certificate, 8% had secondary education and 1% had primary education.

4.1 Descriptive Analysis

To assess public participation, respondents were presented with four statements on five point likert scale and asked to rate their agreement with each. Most respondents (90.55%) agreed that the public has the knowledge of how the project implementation process works. Most of the respondents (90.54%) agreed that they have been part of public participation in project implementation and majority (88.51%) agree that they have been satisfied with the development projects carried. In addition, most of the respondents (84.46%) agreed that there exists a criteria necessary in the identification of development projects. The means indicate an agreement in all the statements given to the respondents.

Table 1: Public Participation

Variable	Not all	at Little Extent	Moderate extent	Great Extent	Very Great Extent	Mean
The public has knowledge of how the project's implementation process works.	8.11%	1.35%	20.95%	53.38%	16.22%	3.68
Member of public participation in project implementation	6.08%	3.38%	38.51%	33.11%	18.92%	3.55
I am satisfied with the development projects carried	8.11%	3.38%	29.05%	43.92%	15.54%	3.55
There exist criteria necessary in the identification of developmental projects.	10.14%	5.41%	29.73%	39.19%	15.54%	3.45

When asked about the constituency involvement in project formulation affected project implementation, most of the respondents argued, it has led to increased delays in project implementation. Some of the selected responses include:

“Poor performance in projects due to lack of close supervision and corruption.”

“In cases where there is no buy-in by the community because of not being involved from the beginning, they may become a major impediment to implementation of a project.”

“Recruiting relatives and friends instead of meritocracy and competency.”

To evaluate the involvement of the public in project implementation, the respondents were presented with a “yes”, “no” or “not sure” question. Most respondents (57.43%) claimed there is no public participation in most of the project. 37.16% of the respondents stated that there is public participation with 5.41% of the respondents being uncertain of the public participation in project implementation.

Table 2: Project Implementation

Variable	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Weakly Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
The politics has influenced the quality of projects being performed by the county government.	4.73%	17.57%	46.62%	21.62%	9.46%	3.14
The project costs and benefit analysis of the development projects in the county have been realistic.	7.43%	39.19%	37.84%	12.84%	2.70%	2.64
Most of the projects have been completed within the expected duration because of the good political environment in Nairobi City County.	11.49%	27.03%	39.86%	14.19%	7.43%	2.79
The level of satisfaction among different stakeholders involved in executing development projects is high.	13.51%	29.05%	43.92%	9.46%	4.05%	2.61
The implementation of development projects in the county has been effective and efficient.	10.14%	32.43%	44.59%	9.46%	3.38%	2.64
The county's politics has immensely contributed to timely project completions to avoid extra costs being incurred.	12.84%	28.38%	41.22%	13.51%	4.05%	2.68

To assess project implementation, respondents were presented with six statements on five point likert scale and asked to rate their agreement with each. The means shows that a majority (mean 3.14) agree that the politics has influenced the quality of projects being performed by the county government. Based on the number of people who agreed to the statement, most respondents (31.08%) agree there is a political influence on the quality of projects being performed by the county government. Majority (46.62%) disagree that the project costs and benefit analysis of the development projects in the county have been realistic. In addition, the majority (78.38%) disagree that most of the projects have been completed within the expected duration because of the good political environment in Nairobi City County. Also, most respondents (86.48%) disagree that the level of satisfaction among different stakeholders involved in executing

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development projects is high. Majority (87.16%) disagree that the implementation of development projects in the county has been effective and efficient and most respondents (82.44%) disagree that the county's politics has immensely contributed to timely project completions to avoid extra costs being incurred.

In the evaluation of timely implementation of projects, most respondents (69.59%) confirmed that there has been delays or projects not being completed in time. Most respondents indicated that the constituencies has not been completing projects in time.

4.2 Correlations Analysis

Table 3: Correlations Analysis

		Public Participation	Project Implementation
Public Participation	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.395**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	254	254
Project Implementation	Pearson Correlation	.395**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	254	254

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 3 shows that there is a positive correlation between Project Implementation and Public participation, the correlation in these two variable are weak. At 5% level of significance, public participation plays a significant part in determining the success in Project implementation.

4.3 Univariate Analysis

To predict the project implementation from public participation, line regression analysis was employed. The model summary shows the coefficient of determination (R²) indicating the percentage variation of project implementation explained by the public participation. From the results of the table below, the regression model containing public participation as the independent variable explains 15.60% of the variation in Project Implementation. The size of Durbin Watson statistic which depends on the number of predictors and number of observation, as conservative rule of thumb, values less than 1 or greater than 3 are definitely cause for concern. Durbin-Watson value of 1.234 indicates that the model did not suffer significantly from autocorrelation.

Table 4: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.395a	0.156	0.15	0.66876	0.156	26.972	1	252	0	1.234
a. Predictors: (Constant), Public Participation										
b. Dependent Variable: Project Implementation										

Table 5 displays ANOVA results that test the significance of the R^2 for the model. An F statistics of 26.972 with a p-value less than the conventional 5% indicates that the overall model was significant at 95% confidence level.

Table 5: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	12.063	1	12.063	26.972	.000b
	Residual	65.298	252	0.447		
	Total	77.361	253			
a. Dependent Variable: Project Implementation						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Public Participation						

Table 6 of coefficients presents the unstandardized and standardized coefficients of the model, the t statistic for each coefficient and the associated p-values. The predictor variable had significant negative relationship with Project Implementation.

The findings confirm that there is a statistically significant influence of public participation on project implementation. This implies that an increase in public participation leads to an increase in project implementation as demonstrated by the equation below.

$$\text{Project Implementation} = 1.588 + .326 \text{ Public Participation}$$

Table 6: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	1.588	0.23		6.9	0.000	1.133	2.043
	Public Participation	0.326	0.063	0.395	5.19	0.000	0.202	0.45
a. Dependent Variable: Project Implementation								

5.0 Conclusions

The findings confirm that there is a statistically significant influence of public participation on Employee Project Implementation. A positive increase in Public Participation leads to an

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increase in Project Implementation. These results are in line with those of Ketoyo (2017) who found that public participation is a significant aspect of development projects implementation. However, it is always derailed by the inadequate structured communication between county agencies and political interferences in public development projects. Ketoyo (2017) recommends a continuous review and amendment of public participation to meet the needs of various groups. The study concluded that public participation forms a central part in increasing knowledge and understanding of the development projects. Consequently, it becomes a significant aspect in explaining the success of project implementation.

6.0 Recommendations

With the results from the study and the conclusion, the study recommends: There should be an increase in resources and establishment of a system that can address the channeling of funds to the responsible personnel for increased success in project implementation. The government should also increase the accessibility of project implementation information to the public to facilitate the accountability claims from the public to the people responsible.

The study has some limitation. The study focused on only one singly constituency. In the future, researchers should examine about politics and projects implementation with the focus in the whole country. Besides, this study and the findings should be a benchmark for a more extensive research on politics and implementation of project. While this study narrowed its focus on only three independent variable, the future researches should research on other variables that presumably relate directly or indirectly to politics and implementation of project.

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