Role of Community Engagement on Mobile Mentorship Initiative (MOBIMENTA) Project Sustainability in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi Districts of Rwanda

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Abstract

The main objective of the paper was to find out how community engagement on project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation affects sustainability of maternal and child care projects (Mobimenta) in rural areas of Africa. 3 districts of Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi districts in rural Rwanda were assessed as case studies. The study used descriptive research design with a sample size of 255 people working with MobiMenta project. The study used universal sampling techniques where questionnaires were administered to 254 people and 1 manager. Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics such as correlation and multiple linear regressions were used as method of data analysis. The findings revealed that community engagement in project implementation had significant role on project sustainability. Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.67 supported a strong association between project sustainability and community engagement in project implementation monitoring and evaluation. The findings revealed that community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation had significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project. From the findings, it was concluded that increasing community engagement in the various stages of project management will increase in community ownership, capacity building and empowerment which are key drivers in ensuring that projects run after the completion stage and when the donors or other sources of external funding has been cut off. Lack of community engagement can result in loss of capital, non-acceptance of the project by the beneficiaries, legal implication and conflict which lead to non-sustainable projects. The researcher recommends that project beneficiaries should be involved in the earlier stages of the project cycle leading up to monitoring and evaluation, otherwise their participation in monitoring and evaluation will have less meaning.

Keywords: *Community Engagement, Mobile Mentorship Initiative, Project Sustainability, Karongi District, Nyamasheke Distric, Rusizi District, Rwanda.*

1. Introduction

Community engagement involves the individuals and communities in decisions about things that affect their lives. It entails open discussions and working with and not for people (Tiwari *et al*., 2017). People shall participate and contribute significantly to something they feel part of, identify with, and correlate with their efforts (Häkkinen & Belloni, 2018). Mobey and Parker, (2018) argues that to increase the chances of a project success, it is necessary for the organization to understand the critical success factors, to systematically and quantitatively assess these vital factors, anticipating possible effects, and then select appropriate methods of handling them. Once identified, the success of the project can be achieved.

In Africa, as Gauge (2019) stated that when more responsibility is taken over by the community than public legal agencies attempting for consumer preferences evaluations through meetings and surveys, this generally result into a successful community participation. Projects need to include components to face Community participation to work. The recruitment of beneficiaries can help in the designing, implementing, maintaining, supervising, and evaluating the project, of course considering time, effort, and money to be spent in the right way. More emphasis spent to the local committees' evolution and guiding governance structures to oversee adequately the participation of the community.

Studies by Mansuri and Rao (2017) indicate that the participation of local community is the key component leading to the sustainability. A recent study done by Sandi Moyo (2020) in South Africa revealed that community participation is a challenging concept to define. The study indicated that many beneficiaries of development projects in Masendu and Izimnyama wards had their way of considering of what community participation is and that it must reflect local values and needs. Furthermore, the beneficiaries were not at all given full engagement on the development projects they wanted to be implemented.

In Rwanda, development projects are executed with the aim of achieving economic progress through acquisition of skills which enables people to source for income and hence improved livelihood. The livelihood project in Rwanda for example aims at improving people's income and hence alleviates poverty and hunger through skills development, promoting savings and advancing loans for businesses start up among others. Studies by Alcid (2017) indicated that the livelihood project has so far transformed the lives of the rural households though the question of participation is still of concern.

2. Problem statement

Participation of a community in project development leads to building capacity that equips the community for efficiency and effectiveness on the journey to Identify, implement, monitor and evaluate the projects for development (Davids *et al*., 2018).

Community involvement in project sustainability in Rwanda has been through a long process of economic reforms and has played a major role in providing services to the public. However, it does not clear and identified whether community participation on projects have been identified and developed for the benefits of the community, but after heir completion period they collapse. Rwanda hosts many local and international Non-Governmental Organizations which engage in local activities of uplifting the lives of the community. In Rwanda, many development projects have not survived beyond withdrawal of donors' funds either public funds or foreign technical

skills. In Rwanda, many projects have stalled after completion and others in the implementation stage projects due to poor sustainability and ownership by the local community.

Projects are needed to be sustainable in long term within regular project maintenance, achieving project intended objectives, improving community project ownership, society acceptance and assure financial sustainability of project. For long time, development assistance has had lasting history of implementation of project which fails shortly after the agency has withdrawn her funds.

The intended community on the other hand has little community participation in project sustainability activities and project end up collapsing after closure. Research has shown that well designed stakeholders as well as community participation process leads to project success and hence its sustainability (Ababa, 2019). Therefore, this study aims at investigating the role of community engagement on project sustainability in Rwanda after implementation and closure of MobiMenta project initiated as part of other existing interventions to reduce preventable maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

3. Objectives of study

The study had general and specific objectives:

3.1 General objective

The general objective of this study was to examine the role of community engagement on project sustainability in Rwanda with a case of MobiMenta project in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi Districts.

3.2 Specific objectives

(i) To find out how community engagement in project planning affect sustainability of MobiMenta project;
(ii) To determine whether community engagement in project implementation affect sustainability of MobiMenta project;
(iii) To assess whether community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation affect sustainability of MobiMenta project.

3.2 Research hypotheses

H_{01}. Community engagement in project planning has no significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project.
H_{02}. Community engagement in project implementation has no significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project.
H_{02}. Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation has no significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project.

4. Literature review

This chapter discusses literature which is associated with the study. The chapter reveals theoretical and conceptual framework.

4.1 Theoretical literature

The study considered theories related to community engagement and sustainability of projects. The theories that used are Need Chain Theory, Community Action Planning Theory and Stakeholder engagement Theory.

4.1.1 Need Chain Theory

According to Randy (2005), Need Chain Theory has also four vertical factors that should be considered and they include: Organizational need (needs that usually pertain to behaviour or tangible outcomes, such as market share or sales targets); individual needs (needs that usually pertain to the individual's attitudes about the organization or himself, such as job satisfaction); causes and level of objectivity for all needs (the objectivity level requires all needs to contain a certain level of objectivity and to be based on deep investigation or further analysis).

The Need Chain Theory provides tools that assist organizations in prioritizing resources and identifying areas that require improvement (Mangin, 2017). The major types of needs that must be taken into consideration, for example, for determining the organization's goals and the instrument needs with full understanding of the unconscious needs while a different factor determines the objectivity level. A Need Chain Theory is a basis that allows a development project to consider the individual needs within a community as well as the projects stakeholders and community needs simultaneously to come up with solutions to prioritizing resources and areas of improvement for the project (Cornwall, & Gaventa, 2011). Project planning includes needs analysis, projects requests and objective analysis. Once the project has completed the theory, it gives them a better picture of the project's priorities in a timely manner. One of the roles of this theory is that it can be used to help decision makers in project quickly come to solutions to priorities that may change over time. The need-based theory is applied on projects to ensure sustainability. Singh (2008) argued that in order to conduct a needs chain theory, the project must identify Instrument needs, performance needs, conscious and unconscious needs on the organizational, project level and the individual level. In this regard, the organizational and project level applies to behaviour or outcomes, whereas the individual level pertains to individual attitudes to things such as job performance or how they view the organization or projects. Need Chain Theory is applicable in this study specifically during project, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. It is applied in determining the need of the community, a prime pillar in project sustainability. A community needs assessment is a blend of community engagement, information gathering and focused action with the aim of community improvement. It also identifies the strengths and weaknesses (needs) within a community. Community leaders, local government, advocacy groups, project team or a combination of these then address these identified needs through policy change or project development.

4.1.2 Community Action Planning (CAP) Theory

Community Action Planning (CAP) Theory was developed by (Hamdi & Goethert, 1997) and focus on who participates in projects and at what level. Effective development plans must clearly

state those who will participate since inviting every person is difficult to manage, hence it is better to design a strategy that will ensure a fair representation of everyone (Kuei & Lu, 2019). The central claim of the theory is that communities and their groups should be responsible for the initiation, planning, design, implementation, and maintenance of development projects in their environments. The Community Action Planning (CAP) is a 5-step, community-driven theory designed to build communities' capacity to address disparities through mobilization. Fundamental to the theory is a critical analysis identifying the underlying social, economic, and environmental forces that create inequities in a community. The goal is to provide communities with the framework necessary to acquire the skills and resources to plan, implement, and evaluate project actions and guidelines. Community engagement serves as a framework that explains that residences of a community must be made to participate in any development project in their environment. As community residents know their problems more than any other outside consultant or government. Therefore, getting their input and having them to help decide the design of the project brings a sense of ownership and success of the project (Bank & Fund, 2017).

According to Hamdi & Goethert (1997) the new realism of development requires a new definition of public responsibility and a new role for development practitioners. By moving away from the orthodox trend where consultants plan, politicians decide, and the people receive towards a trend that promote community empowerment; involving people who are directly affected by the development project; and promoting the appropriate technologies in the planning process (Hamdi & Goethert, 1997). There is need for direct communication with community residence in identifying community needs and in planning a project for execution. (Hamdi & Goethert, 1997) argued that the planning team should undertake a direct observation by looking, listening and talking. Care must be taken to ensure that various interests in the community are represented. Communication plays an integral role in project sustainability. The project manager is charged with guiding all aspects of the project, including the communication plan with method and frequency as specifics.

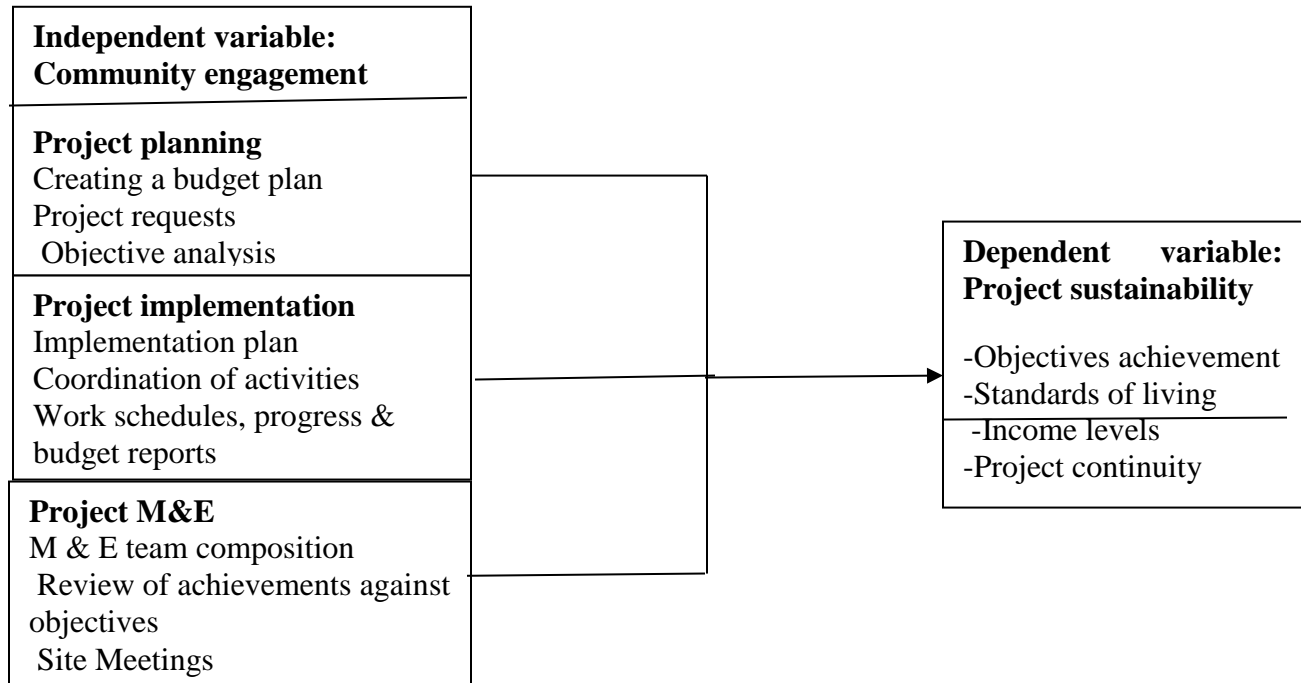### 4.1.3 Stakeholder engagement theory

The stakeholder theory was advanced by Freeman (1994) and holds that the purpose of any business is to enhance the value of the organization and promote value for all the stakeholders. The Stakeholder Theory exhaustively covers the various stakeholders involved in project implementation such as donors, researchers, management and even the ultimate users of the project (Donaldson & Preston, 2010). This theory holds that the coordination between the various project stakeholders both internal and external can be instrumental in fostering cohesion in the undertaking which will lead to attainment of the mutual goals within such a system of partnership and also indicates that the participation of project beneficiaries will foster the economic value of the project through skills development (Donaldson & Preston, 2015).

The theory has its origin in management literature as traced by Pretson (1990) to great Depression (2012) in USA. According to Freeman (1994) he traced by mentioning the word Stakeholder as back to research conducted by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) which define stakeholder as those group without whose support the organization would cease to exist"" cited (Freeman 2012), he also expands this notion by including any group or individual that can affect or affected by the achievement of the corporation purpose. With stakeholder engagement theory the complexity of interaction between different interest group in corporation can be viewed easily through firm owners, customers, employee, and suppliers. The theory also delineates the stakeholder

management at different techniques in lifecycle stage and appropriate level of engagement within the project life cycle (PLC). This will lead to more users getting involved in the project execution as employees and increase their sense of ownership which is pivotal in attaining the project goals. This theory further added credence to the need for stakeholder participation in project management as a key tool of fostering programs success and sustainability.

4.2 Conceptual framework

Independent variable: Community engagement
Project planning   Creating a budget plan   Project requests   Objective analysis
Project implementation   Implementation plan   Coordination of activities   Work schedules, progress & budget reports
Project M&E   M & E team composition   Review of achievements against objectives   Site Meetings

Dependent variable: Project sustainability
-Objectives achievement   -Standards of living   -Income levels   -Project continuity

Source: Researcher's compilation, 2023
Figure 1: Conceptual framework

5. Methods and materials
5.1 Research Design

Newing (2011) defines research design as the scheme, outline or plan that is used to generate answers to research problems. It can be regarded as an arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance with the study purpose. It constitutes the blue print for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. The study used descriptive research design and correlational research design. The study described the level community engagement such as planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation as independent variable and also the study described the level of project sustainability such as objectives achievement, community project ownership and society acceptance as dependent variable. Correlational analysis and multiple linear regressions were used to establish the relationship between community engagement and project sustainability.

5.2 Population and Sample size

According to Kothari (2011), a population is a well-defined or set of people, services, elements, and events, group of things or households that are being investigated. According to MobiMenta project report (2023), the project has 11 employees, 30 mentors, 12 health care providers, 1

manager and 201 beneficiaries of MobiMenta project. Therefore, the total population of the study comprises of 255 people working with MobiMenta in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi.

A sample is a set of individuals selected from a population and is usually intended to represent the population in a research study (Newing, 2011). Therefore, the sample size of the study comprised of manager (1) and 254 people working with MobiMenta in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi. The researcher used Universal sampling technique to select 255 people because the sample size equals to population of the study.

5.3 Data collection instruments

This instrument was used to transmit a set of questions to which the subject was required to respond by filling in their answers depending on their understanding and the perception on the study. Sekaran (2006) defined a questionnaire as a set of questions which are asked to get information from a respondent. It is also currently used to mean a set of questions, which are self-administrated. For this study, a questionnaire was designed and pre-tested before administering it to all selected respondents. The questionnaire was developed in line with objectives of this study. The questionnaire was comprised of three categories such as profile of respondent, level of community engagement towards project sustainability and level of project (MobiMenta) sustainability.

A questionnaire is a pre-formulated written set of questions to which the respondents record the answers usually within rather closely delineated alternatives. A Likert scale of five responses was used. Likert scale is an interval scale that specifically uses five anchors of strongly disagrees, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree. The researcher initially contacted the respondents, ranging from an initial letter of introduction giving notice of the study and handing paper questionnaires to the respondents.

Interview was designed for top leaders of MobiMenta project. The schedules are designed to promote an opportunity for the study to establish a rapport with the respondents, explain in person the nature and purpose of the study. The interview schedule contains both close and open-ended questions. The intention was to elicit short and brief responses to the former questions and provide room for the responses in the respondents' words to the latter questions. The face-to-face interview provides a forum for the study to gather a lot of in-depth information which may not have been captured by the questionnaires. It also helped the study to collect supplementary information about the respondent personal characteristics and environment that are very vital in interpreting the data. Interview was given to manager of MobiMenta project.

5.4 Validity and Reliability of research instruments

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inference, which are based on the study results. It is the degree to which results are based on the study; results obtained from the analysis of data represent the phenomenon under study. The usual procedures in accessing the contents validity are to use professionals or experts in the particular field. The researcher gave the instruments to the supervisors to scrutinize if the instruments are valid. To determine the content validity there is a need to use the research questions and objectives formulated earlier against the expected responses which the item elicited from the field. According to Sekaran (2006), indicates that for a research instrument to be valid, the CVI should be more than or equal to 0.6. Then a content validity index (CVI) was computed using the formula:

For this study the calculated CVI was

CVI= 26/32=0.812

If the calculated CVI is greater than 0.60, the questionnaire is valid (Saunders, 2000). Hence, the study was greater than 0.6, the questionnaire was valid.

Reliability is the degree in which a test consistently measures. To test for reliability of the instruments, the researcher pilots the study instruments with a small representative sample where Cronbach's alpha coefficient shall be determining, if the coefficient is 0.7 and above is deemed reliable and acceptable. In this study the pilot test was conducted where few respondents are exposed to the test-retest method this is where same instrument was given twice to the same group. This showed the correlation between the scores on the two instruments. If the results are consistent over time the scores should be similar.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.753	32

Source: Primary data, 2023
If the calculated CVI is greater than 0.60, the questionnaire becomes valid (Saunders, 2000). The study was greater than 0.7, the questionnaire was valid.

5.5 Data analysis

According to Sekaran (2006), the analysis of data allows the researcher to organize the data collected during the study in order to assess and evaluate the findings to arrive at some reasonable, valid and relevant conclusion. This study employed a descriptive statistical method for representing and summarizing of the bio data. The section dealt with the methods of analysis used by researcher.

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the respondents' view on community engagement and to analyze sustainability of MobiMenta project. It involved use of percentages, frequencies, mean and standard deviation. Correlation analysis was developed to measure the strength and closeness of the relationship between each independent variable as community engagement to dependent variable which is project sustainability. The correlation analysis was used to find out the relationship between community engagement and project sustainability.

A multiple regression was undertaken to establish the impact of each predictor such as community engagement in project planning; community engagement in project implementation and community engagement in monitoring and evaluation on project sustainability. The regression model used is the model indicated below:

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + e$
Where: Y = Project sustainability
$\{\beta i; i=1,2 \text{ and } 3\}$ = The coefficients representing the various independent variables. B_0 = the Y intercept

{Xi; i=1, 2 and 3} = Values of the various independent (covariates) variables.

e = the error term which is assumed to be normally distributed with mean zero and constant variance,

$X1$ = Community engagement in project planning.

$X2$ = Community engagement in project implementation.

X3= Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation.

The regression models are run to test whether the model is significant or not. The statistical significance was verified by the Coefficient (β), t-statistic and Prob. In additional, statistically significant relationship between the dependent variable which is project sustainability and independent variable which is community engagement including community engagement in project planning, community engagement in project implementation and community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation from the model was accepted at 5 significance level.

Data analysis was in two parts. Frequencies, means and percentages were used to describe the characteristics of the sample. Further, regression analysis was used to infer meaning about the entire population from the sample findings. Analysis of variances, model summaries and regression coefficients were used to describe the characteristics of population of study. Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) and excel were used. The findings were presented in various forms of tables.

6. Findings

This section helps to respond the general objective study which is to find out the relationship between community engagement and sustainability of MobiMenta project. To achieve this, the study used the mean of mean to obtain indices for all the study variables. A mean of means was obtained from all the indicator of each variable to get the index for that variable. The study first carried out correlation analysis, using Spearman correlation at 0.05(5%) level of significance (p-value=0.05) to establish whether there was any relationship between community engagement in project sustainability of MobiMenta project.

6.1 Correlation analysis

Analysis was carried out to establish the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables under investigation. This was in line with the objective of this study, which was to establish the relationship between community engagement such as planning, project implementation and project M&E and sustainability of MobiMenta project. Pearson correction method which is known as a statistical technique to measure the relationship between variables was used. Simply it is said that if the correlation value is positive the relationship between variables is said to be positive and vice-versa. After that, the following task is to confirm whether the correlation is statistically significant or not. To this, two famous p-alphas (0.01 and 0.05) are used where the calculated or tabulated p-value is compared to them. If the tabulated p-value is below to one among of them the relationship is said to be statistically significant and if it above the relationship is said to be not statistically significant. The results were presented in Table 2:

Table 2: Correlations analysis matrix

		X1	X2	X3	Y
X1 = Community engagement in project planning.	Pearson Correlation	1			
X2 = Community engagement in project implementation.	Pearson Correlation	.610**	1		
X3= Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation.	Pearson Correlation	.452**	.639**	1	
Y=Sustainability of MobiMenta project	Pearson Correlation	.430**	.661**	.510**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	

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

The Table 2 shows the correlation coefficients between community engagement in different phases of project and project sustainability in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi. The results suggest that there is a strong and positive correlation between community engagement and project sustainability in this context.

Starting with the correlation between community engagement in project planning (X1) and project sustainability (Y), the Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.43** (p<0.01). This indicates that there is a positive relationship between community engagement in project planning and project sustainability. This result implies that involving community in project planning can lead to more sustainable projects in the long run.

Moving on to community engagement in project implementation (X2), the Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.661** (p<0.01). This suggests that there is a strong positive correlation between community participation in project implementation and project sustainability. This finding suggests that involving community in project implementation can also contribute to project sustainability.

Similarly, the correlation between community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation (X3) and project sustainability (Y) is also positive and statistically significant, with a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.510** (p<0.01). This implies that involving community in project monitoring and evaluation can also contribute to project sustainability. The findings suggest that community engagement in different phases of government projects in in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi.is positively related to project sustainability. This highlights the importance of involving community in the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of development projects. By involving local communities and other stakeholders in these processes,

policymakers and project managers can increase the chances of achieving sustainable development outcomes in the long term.

6.2 Multiple linear regression analysis

In addition, the researcher conducted a multiple regression analysis to test the role of community engagement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation as independent variable and project sustainability as dependent variable. The researcher applied the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS V 23.0) to code, enter and compute the measurements of the multiple regressions for the study. The study performed Model Summary, ANOVA and Multiple Regression Models to estimate the relationships between the study variables.

Table 3: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.671[a]	.450	.443	.43459

a. Predictors: (Constant), X3= Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation., X1 = Community engagement in project planning. , X2 = Community engagement in project implementation.

The three independent variables (Community engagement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation) taken together could account for up to 0.443 (44.3%) of the total variation as represented by the adjusted R^2 at 95% of confidence interval. The remaining 55.7% in the variation in project sustainability could be explained by other factors not in the model.

Table 4: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	38.622	3	12.874	68.164	.000[b]
	Residual	47.218	250	.189		
	Total	85.840	253			

a. Dependent Variable: Y=Sustainability of MobiMenta project

b. Predictors: (Constant), X3= Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation, X2 = community engagement in project implementation and X1 = Community engagement in project planning.

Further, the analysis of variance was used to examine whether the regression model was a good fit for the data. It also gives the F-test statistics; the linear regression's F-test has the null hypothesis that there is no linear relationship between the two variables. The F-critical was 2.64 while the F-calculated was 68.164 as shown in Table 4.8. This shows that F-calculated was greater than the F-critical (2.64) and hence linear relationship on the community engagement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation as independent variables on project sustainability as dependent variables. In addition, the p-value was 0.000, which was less than the significance level (0.05). Therefore, the model can be considered to be a good fit for the data and hence it is appropriate in predicting the influence of the three independent variables (community engagement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation) are good predictors of project sustainability in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi.

Table 5: Regression coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.632	.272		2.318	.021
	X1 = Community engagement in project planning.	.035	.075	.028	.464	.043
	X2 = Community engagement in project implementation.	.638	.080	.550	7.972	.000
	X3 = Community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation.	.118	.050	.146	2.379	.018

a. Dependent Variable: Y=Sustainability of MobiMenta project

As per the SPSS generated table 4.9, the equation $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \varepsilon$ becomes:
$Y = 0.632 + 0.035X_1 + 638X_2 + 0.118X_3$
Using the regression equation above and holding all factors constant (Community engagement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation) constant at zero, project sustainability in in Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi was 0.632.

The regression results revealed that community engagement in project planning has significance positive role on sustainability of MobiMenta project as indicated by $\beta_1 = 0.035$, p-value=0.043<0.05. The implication is that an increase of one unit in community engagement in project planning would lead to an increase in sustainability of MobiMenta project by 0.035 units.

The regression results revealed that community engagement in project implementation has significance positive role on sustainability of MobiMenta project as indicated by $\beta_2 = 0.638$, p-value=0.000<0.05. The implication is that an increase of one unit in community engagement in project implementation would lead to an increase in sustainability of MobiMenta project by 0.638 units.

The regression results revealed that community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation has significance positive role on sustainability of MobiMenta project as indicated by $\beta_3 = 0.118$, p-value=0.018<0.05. The implication is that an increase one unit in community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation would lead to an increase in sustainability of MobiMenta project by 0.118 units.

7. Conclusion

The study concluded that community engagement in project planning has a great role on project sustainability since the descriptive results shown a community engagement in project planning towards project sustainability was at very high mean 4.27 and there is a positive week correlation between community engagement in project planning and project sustainability. The null

hypothesis was rejected because regression results revealed that p-value calculated is less than 0.05(5%) level of significance.

The study concluded that community engagement in project implementation had significant role on project sustainability. This is most respondents agreed with the statements pertaining to this stage. There is a positive moderate correlation between community engagement in project implementation and project sustainability. This is also supported by a strong association between project sustainability and community engagement in project implementation by the findings of the Pearson correlation coefficient. The second hypotheses of the study stated that community engagement in project implementation has no significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project was rejected since regression results revealed that p-value calculated (0.000) is less than 0.05(5%) level of significance.

The study concluded that community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation had significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project. There is a positive moderate correlation between community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation and project sustainability. The findings disapproved the hypothesis since community engagement on project monitoring and evaluation had a positive and significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project basing on the regression coefficients of 0.118 with (p-value = 0.018 which is less than 0.05).

8. Recommendations

Based on the above discussions and analysis, the study recommends the following:

For the first objective, the findings revealed that community participation in project planning is the third largest and positive and significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project. The findings revealed that, community are less involved in project planning. study therefore recommends that the community members need to be included before launching projects and all the concerned community engagement should be involved in the choosing the project location, analyzing the needs of the community in terms of financial analysis of the costs and benefits and MobiMenta project needs to adopt planning practices that involve different levels of stakeholders more, and most especially community members.

Though a few respondents suggested that they had not participated in the project planning process and given the importance of project planning to the entire project, MobiMenta project management should ensure that the planning process is carried out with maximum transparency and that all stakeholders and the community are offered equal chances to participate and offer their feedback and views.

For the second objective, the findings showed that community participation in project implementation is the first largest and had significant role on sustainability of Mobimenta project. In view of this finding, the study recommends that there should be good communication channel during the implementation stage to get rid of misinformation especially information to the local community where the project is operating.

For the third objective, the results analyzed indicated that community engagement in project monitoring and evaluation had the second largest and significant role on sustainability of MobiMenta project. Based on this finding, the study recommends that the government and other development partners need to encourage community in monitoring and evaluation processes for

the rural projects. This would help them to identify gaps and challenges as well as the extent to which the project is impacting on their lives; this will enhance the sustainability of project and the management of Mobimenta should ensure community engagement in monitoring of evaluation process of project through project cost efficiency, beneficiary satisfaction and reduction in project costs deviation and reduction in operation costs to a great extent.

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