

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS IN KENYA: A CASE OF ALEGO- USONGA SUB-COUNTY**David Okoth Opiyo¹ & Dr. Weldon Kibet Ng'eno, PhD²**¹ Scholar (Public Policy and Administration), School of Law, Arts and Social Sciences, Kenyatta University, Kenya² Lecturer, Department of Public Policy and Administration, Kenyatta University, Kenya**Accepted: March 28, 2024****ABSTRACT**

The research observed public participation on sustainability of the government funded projects. Descriptive research design was employed to establish the influence of public engagements on sustainability of the projects in Alego-Usonga sub- County. Targeted in the study were 103 respondents who included the Sub-County administrators, ward administrators, project managers, private contractors and project committee members who were targeted to provide information on behalf of the public. Also targeted were village administrators. Because of the small size of the population, the study conducted a census of the population. All the targeted respondents were administered with questionnaires and were given fourteen days to respond to questionnaires after which those responses were collected. The data was coded and analyzed through mean and standard deviation. Inferential statistics were analyzed through correlation and regression analysis. Tables, pie charts and bar graphs were then employed to present the collected data. The outcomes of the study displayed that most of the Alego-Usonga sub-county citizens' that took part in the study were male, aged 33-49 years, married and had worked for the county Government for more than six years. The findings of the study depicted a weak positive relationship between public participation structures and sustainability of Government funded projects ($N=99$, $r=0.305$, $p=0.002$). The regression model revealed that public participation structures was positively associated but non-significant with sustainability of Government funded projects ($\beta=0.205$, $t=1.793$, $p=0.076$). The results also displayed a weak negative relationship between public participation processes and sustainability of Government funded projects ($N=99$, $r= -0.314$, $p=0.002$).The regression model also shows that public participation processes was negatively and significantly associated with sustainability of Government funded projects ($\beta=-0.244$, $t=-2.285$, $p=0.025$).Finally, outcomes also identified a moderate positive relationship between public-private partnerships and sustainability of Government funded projects ($N=99$, $r=0.412$, $p=0.000$). The regression model also revealed that public-private partnerships was positively and significantly associated with sustainability of Government funded projects ($\beta=0.320$, $t=2.820$, $p=0.006$). Ethical considerations were taken into account and participants informed that the outcomes of the research were purely for academic purpose. The results of the study have an effect on county technocrats', leaders' and policy makers on the urge to expand and adopt appropriate components of public participation with the sole purpose of enhancing sustainability of Government funded-projects in the counties.

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INTRODUCTION

Internationally, Governance and administration have undergone through sweeping changes ranging from dictatorial, authoritarian to democratic structures. The integration of democracy was at the center of the third wave democratization. These have then established a new form of administration and structures to encourage public's participation in governance and entire government decision-making process. Politically, participatory governance is a way of governance in which citizens are not only involved in voting but also deliberations on governance and management of matters. It establishes an interactive stage between citizen's and their respective governments as well as providing a platform for comprehensive governance that embraces democracy (Shiple & Utz, 2012).

Public participation has played a seminal role geared towards attaining sustainable development. Through these, there is a sense in which participants can associate themselves with their prevailing economy and the hurdles they face thus having some level of knowledge and understanding that can be influential in determining strategies that can benefit them. Public participation approaches have since become a mandatory provisions and demand by most development agency and partners such as United Nations. Most of the mega public-private related projects in the western nations have registered dismal performance because of resistance from the community (Cornwall, 2008).

The bottom-up economic method and model did make some remarkable achievements in project presentation and sustainable development; it actually enables execution of projects much enhanced as opposed to traditional top-down which has been termed as inefficient, corrupt, and exploitative of the poor and the marginalized (World Bank, 1998; 2002). Most development projects in the western countries have allegedly nose-dived because of ineffective public participation. These has actually revealed that public participation takes into consideration thorough and robust arrangements to safeguard people's views and contributions across all levels of project operation (Emergency Protection Agency, 2012).

In Africa, public participation dates back in the middle 1970s. In the past, Governments throughout the world and especially the African nations have acknowledged the importance of engaging citizens through meaningful public participation. Most of the African states have made some remarkable strides towards institutionalizing citizen's engagement in grassroots development (Visser & Simpson, 2019).

In determination and urge to advance the quality of lives, Kenyan post independent Government changed strategies in mid 1970s from centralization programs to decentralization policies so as to bring services nearer to the citizens with the aim of enhancing and embracing public involvement as well as improving accountability on Government programs. In the end run, various decentralized programs such as DFRD that emphasized on encouraging citizen's participation in rural development. Another approach was PRSP which too emphasized on the need of providing the citizens with the chance to contribute towards the implementation of the projects. All these programs were directed towards project sustainability bearing in mind that beneficiaries were in one way or the other incorporated in various phases of project's life (Bohlers, 2019). Even though these strategies embraced public participation mechanisms, they did not meet their expectation of realizing and actualizing public participation thus had insignificant impact (Kimani, Nekesa & Ndungu, 2009). This necessitated the adoption of the Constitution (2010) with public participation taking the center stage in Both National and County processes.

With the promulgation of the constitution 2010, citizens have been allowed to participate in both National and county affairs. The constitution embraces citizens' participation and engagement in most county projects so as to heighten decent governance and obtain sustainable development. The constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that both levels of governments have the responsibility of not only engaging the public with the aim of understanding their needs but also involving them in designing and implementation of projects (Rai, 2020).

The new Constitution has not only reintroduced devolution as a strategy that ensure equal and fair distribution of the Country's resources and capital but also view public participation as way of creating and enhancing relevance in government -funded projects thus achieving sustainable development across the country. In attempt to institutionalize public engagements and further entrench public participation, the nation established and enacted various laws and statutes. Among these laws was County Government's Act 2012 which emphasizes on the principles of public participation as well as the structure of the county government (Munene, 2019).

The laws and statutes clearly lay down various ways and avenues in which people can participate in governance. Among the venues and methods stipulated in this laws includes, the obligation of county government to institute ways for public participation, the responsibility of the county governments to address hurdles encountered by the citizens as well as the rights of the citizens to access information (Ngige & Busolo, 2019). Most importantly, the acts further acknowledge the right of the communities as well as the public to dictate their undertakings in connection to development. The acts also conform to the dictates of article one of the constitution by giving out authority to self-rule. This has actually enabled the communities to take part and be incorporated in National and county development plans and agenda thus enhancing sustainability of Government funded projects.

The legal and constitutional provisions clearly justify the need of effective and meaningful public participation towards development of projects with citizens as the main beneficiaries taking the center stage in project planning, designing and implementation. The adoption of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) has since seen steady and organized dissemination of the country's capitals from the centralize units to the devolved governments. This is actually intended to take development to the locals at the grassroots and to also enable them manage their resources as enshrined in the Constitution and other legal provisions that embraces public participation.

County Governments across the country have rolled out numerous developments which are intended to advance vital services. Scholarly evidences show that Community participation towards development of projects benefit the entire community by attaining sustainable development (Kululanga & Kuotchwa, 2010). It is equally important to acknowledge that, as many counties continue to institutionalize and implement structures, processes and policies that promote sustainability of projects, some counties are still grappling with certain hurdles of implementing these legal and constitutional requirements. Reports from some government agencies such as Controller of Budget revealed that majority of the developments initiated by the devolved units were either uncompleted or poorly executed.

Siaya County features in list of counties that have made remarkable efforts towards institutionalizing public participation (Odero & Odenyo, 2022). In consistent with the Constitution 2010, Siaya County via county assembly enacted public participation and Governance act in 2015. The act listed out numerous components; among them are the provisions that allow inclusion of the people towards identification of tasks as well as provisions that enable citizens to take part in budgetary allocation of development projects.

Statement of the Problem

Public participation and sustainability of projects have been extensively studied ever since the new Constitution was adopted in 2010. Particularly, researchers and academics in the public policy field have investigated widely on the part played by the public towards services delivery (Opiyo, Guyo, Moronge & Odhiambo, 2017). Moi (2019) focused on governance of projects by interrogating whether citizen's involvement and perception played a role in governance of projects in two counties, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nandi. Through multinomial regression, it was demonstrated that citizen's expectation and involvement guided their participation in governance of the projects.

With the dispensation of the CoK (2010), Public participation was considered a compulsory practice in execution of projects by devolved governments so as to solve hurdles previously characterized with decentralization policies. Even though the above measures and structures heighten the expectation of Kenyans, Most of the County governments through-out the country did not establish the platforms for comprehensive and robust public participation (Society for International Development, 2016). These have denied the citizens opportunity to influence project implementation thus subsequently affecting the sustainability of most projects. The challenges and the gains of sustainable developments have been extensively witnessed across the counties. This somehow can be attributed to a short period that devolution has been in existence. The study therefore focused on Siaya county particularly Alego-usonga, sub-county which has also recorded numerous challenges and gains of sustainability of government funded projects. Main point of interest was to study how structures, processes and partnerships employed by the county would impact sustainability of projects.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the effects of public participation structures on sustainability of government- funded projects in Alego –usonga sub –county.
- To establish the effect of public participation processes on sustainability of government- funded projects in Alego –usonga sub –county.
- To determine the effect of public- private partnerships on sustainability of government- funded projects in Alego –usonga sub –county.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Review

The review took into consideration various proponents and authors who have immensely contributed to the field of public participation and Sustainability of projects and whose contribution and participation have made remarkable strides towards the study. Wide array of research and study from various authors among them Arnstein (1969), Waheduzzaman (2010), and Mohammadi (2010) played a seminal role in shaping and directing this study. Internationally, Authors such as Pejove (2002), Kabashome (2008) and Mary, 2009 remarkably contributed towards this research by employing various techniques towards understanding how public participation structures and public participation processes respectively influences' Sustainability of projects. Locally, the contribution made by Muriu (2104), Mugambi & Theuri (2014) and Moi (2019) among others offered some insight in the study. Also worth to note, are the national and legal provisions such as the constitution of Kenya, 2010, Public finance and management act,2012 as well as County Government act, 2012 which not only formed the basis of the study but also platform of references for this research. Focus on the aforementioned references and others played an important role towards the study.

Sustainability of projects can be viewed as a condition in development execution where the gains of the Project Programs remains even if the supporting partners and donors exit or Withdraw from the programs. (Jørgensen, Hermann, and Mortensen, 2010). Mathur (2008) asserts that there are various ways of terming sustainability with regard to projects advances. The definition mostly relies on the opinions and wants of the respective stakeholders. Sustainability can also be seen as the extent or rather the degree to which a certain program can responds to the issues in a nonstop manner (Noori, 2017).

World Bank's Operations Evaluation Department carried out an audit on sustainability of projects and found out that, out of the twenty-seven completed projects, nine were dubbed “sustained”, eight named “doubtful” while the rest were “not sustained” (Bamberger & Cheema, 1990). Globally, sustainable development is becoming a thorn in the flesh for most countries. Ever increasing citizens' pressure, emerging challenges and financial hurdles are generally affecting the sustainability of projects (Bens, 1994).

A study conducted by Monday, Adadu and Usman (2019) demonstrated that majority of developments starts to fail immediately the concerned stakeholder's attempts to compromise the standards of the projects or fail to address the issues that directly affects the people.

A research conducted by Waheduzzaman (2010) in Bangladesh to understand the effect and impact of public participation in good governance demonstrated that multiple setbacks such as lack of clear structures and levels of public participation, lack of awareness and legal system for participation defined poor public participation. Among other objectives in this study was to understand the, levels and setbacks to public engagements in governance. The undertakings employed descriptive survey and qualitative approach method where participants were interviewed so as to come up with more in-depth information. The data was qualitatively analyzed. The study explored levels as well as legal system for public participation and left a gap on arrangements for public engagements which significantly affect sustainability of government developments. The study therefore narrowed the aforementioned gap by establishing the relationship as well as the influence between county structures for public participation and sustainability of county projects.

Kabashome (2008) employed semi structured questionnaires and interviews to examine the impact of public participation on sustainability of water supply projects. After purposively sampling Participants and analyzing data using SPSS, a study that targeted members of Kanungu town Council in Tanzania revealed that there were minimal community participation which contributed to dismissal performance of projects and low level of success. This research explored levels of community participation and consultations and left a gap on aspects of structures. The study thus aims at breeching the gap by employing descriptive approach so as to show the association between public participation and sustainability of government funded projects.

Allowing citizens to participate in the government undertakings not only leads to greater understanding of responsibilities, but also breaks down barriers between citizens and government and also empowers the people (KSG, 2015). The processes of citizen's participation have been catered for in the Constitution, 2010 under article 10 where National and county government are all mandated to facilitate the entire processes that enhance meaningful public participation (Asingwa, 2019).

Mohammadi (2010) through a qualitative focus, postulated that, for development initiatives to gain ground, beneficiaries which are largely the public must not only be cognizant of their roles as well as obligations in respect to public participation but also the laid down processes that enhance sustainability of developments. The study was geared towards understanding the perception of the Iran people on participation in government activities. The study employed a qualitative approach that largely exploited interviews so as to obtain qualitative data. Also worth to note is the first stage of the four stages that Community participation undergoes as far as project development and performance is concern. This is according to model of effective community participation. The first stage which is "involvement" acknowledges the importance of educating and informing people on the processes of public participation majorly to enhance sustainability of projects (Mathbor, 2008).

A research work that that was channeled towards examining factors hindering completion of county developments acknowledged that resources are key project factor towards implementation of government-funded projects (Wanyonyi, 2016). The study that was conducted in Trans-Nzoia County and adopted descriptive approach where questionnaires were filled further confirmed that Funds allocation play a seminal role towards completion of the County Government projects. The study also employed purposively sampling where local leaders among other key stakeholders were targeted. It was also revealed that political goodwill and intervention from the local leaders, private partners, public and Members of County Assembly (MCAs) had a greater impact towards completion of county projects (Wanyonyi, 2016). Even though the study acknowledged the importance of political goodwill and intervention from various stakeholders towards completion of projects, it did not reveal how private-public partnerships affect the sustainability government-

funded projects. The study thus bridged the gap by exploring the connection between private-public partnerships and sustainability of County government funded projects.

In their undertakings to investigate the impact of community engagements on sustainability of health program, Akumu and Onono (2017) showed that minimal community participation directly and negatively affected most health programs in Kajiado County. The study explored descriptive design and also factored in primary data obtained from 270 respondents. The data obtained was quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed. Among the challenges that were highlighted were lack of clear information and training (Akumu & Onono, 2017). Despite the author evaluating the level of participation, the study did not reveal to what extent such participation by stakeholders affect sustainability of projects. These undertakings aimed at addressing the identified gaps by bringing out the aspect of public-private partnerships and how it affects sustainability of projects.

Theoretical Framework

The Cognitive Engagement Theory

The theory that was projected by Meece, Blumenfeld and Hoyle (1988) asserts that the readiness and willingness of the people to use and share information in a constructive and logical way play a pivotal role towards making any change. Also according to this theory, the extent of people's level of literacy and knowledge determine or rather dictates the rate at which people interpret and decipher available information. The theory thus connects public participation to people's level of education and extent of their knowledge. In a nutshell, this theory postulates that people who are educated and have higher cognitive ability are better placed when it comes to meaningful public participation and are likely to participate properly in public meetings and forums. This theory was therefore beneficial to this study in that, it strived towards understanding the extent at which people will utilize various levels of public participation structures and, to what extent such structures will affect sustainability of Government funded project in Alego –usonga sub – county, Siaya County.

The Stakeholder Theory

This theory according to Freeman (1984) recognizes the importance and duty of the stakeholder in running of an organization. In county Government such as Siaya County, the main stakeholders who are responsible for the performance of the projects are the people of Siaya County who not only want better services but also proper implementation of the prioritized county projects.

Other stakeholders can be contractors and other groups such as employees and business partners. Unlike stewardship theory that put more emphasis on steward's role of protecting and maximizing shareholder's wealth through firm performance, the theory in question (stakeholder's theory) states that managers in an organization have a network of relationship to serve and should engage all stakeholders in determining matters that affect organizations. The discussion under this theory is premised on the fact that engagement of stakeholders, such as citizens in participating towards determining development of projects is of great importance towards enhancement of various government projects within the county. The theory helped in understanding how engaging all stakeholders through various public participation process impacted sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego –usonga sub –county, Siaya County.

The Ladder of Public Participation Theory

As postulated by Arnstein (1969), this theory is premised on the notion that an effective public engagement is based on the relocation of power to the people. A redistributed power enhances and offers a good platform and opportunity for the people to directly contribute towards decision- making within the community. This theory uses a ladder as a metaphor to explain the relationship between the Government and the citizens.

Also according to this theory, participants (Citizens) are not only given room to give their opinions but also opportunity to advice on certain issues that affects them. At this level, the public have influence on the

decision- making process. This theory thus explains the importance of engaging the citizens towards decision- making as well as offering them with the opportunity to decide and advice on appropriate developments. Finally, the observations of the theory are also pegged on the fact that cordial relationship between the citizens and state play a seminal part in not only determining the projects at the county level but also enable the have-nots(citizens) to give their opinions and fully negotiate with the Government.

The theory of Ladder of public Participation was relevant to this research as it was used to gauge how empowering people through meaningful public participation processes, structures and public- private partnerships influenced sustainability of Government -funded projects in Alego –usonga sub –county.

Conceptual Framework

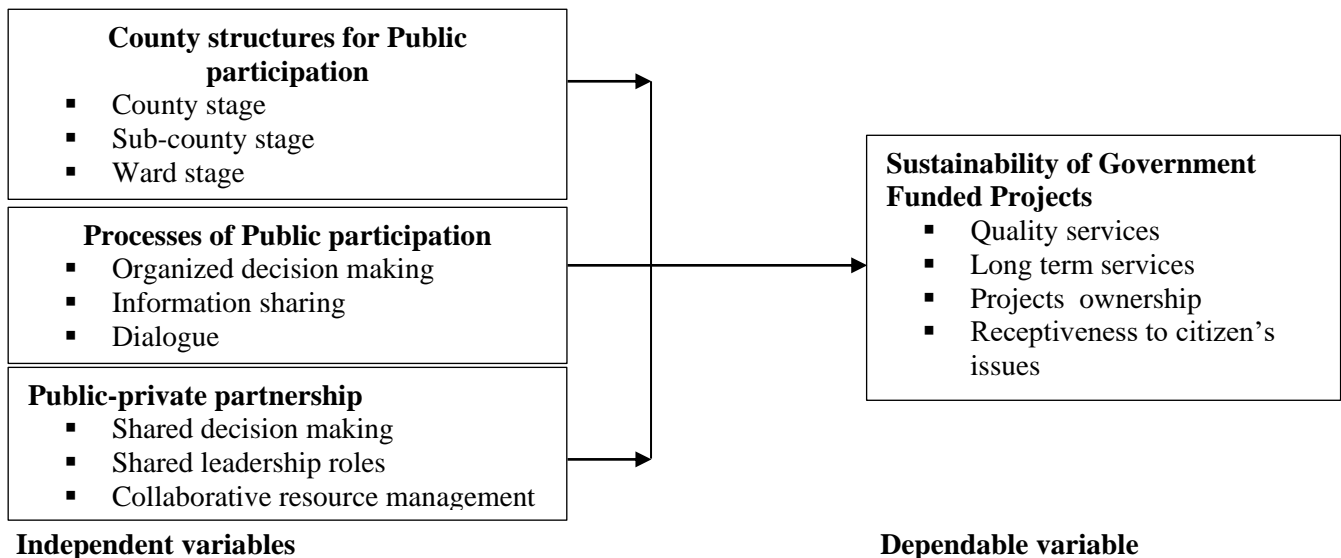


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework
Source: Researcher (2024)

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted for this design because the researcher intended to offer evocative inquiry of the status of public participation and sustainability of Government funded projects. The research was carried out on Alego-usonga sub-county; Siaya County. The county is located in the southwest part of the Country and approximately 471 KMs from the Capital city. The study targeted 103 members of Alego-usonga sub-county. The study adopted census sampling whereby the whole target population was considered in data collection. Therefore, the sample size was 103 respondents. Semi-structured Questionnaire with closed-ended questions was employed to gather primary data. This facilitated collection and gathering of quantitative data in which limited reactions such as a 5- point Likert scale type of questions were employed in connection to public participation structures, processes of public participation as well as the view on Public-private partnerships. Pilot testing of the questionnaire allowed errors, ambiguities and other flaws to be checked and reduced as well as assisting in estimating time needed for filling the questionnaire. The reliability of the research instrument was established through Cronbach's alpha test which was adopted at a threshold of 0.7 as recommended by (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Study mainly derived its data from primary sources. After successful collection of data, data was examined, filtered, sorted and cleaned. Quantitative data were entered and analyzed through statistical software, SPSS. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze data.

FINDINGS

Public Participation Structures

The first aim of this research was to examine the effects of Public participation structures on sustainability of Government-funded projects in Alego- Usonga Sub-County. The study sought to understand the practical structures employed by the Sub-county to facilitate sustainability of Government-funded projects. Below are the results in respect to Public participation structures.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on effect of Public participation structure

Statement	SD	D	U	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev
County structures for public participation are clear.	31.3%	23.2%	10.1%	16.2%	19.2%	2.69	1.53
The County structures are well utilized and Documented.	34.3%	23.2%	10.1%	13.1%	19.2%	2.60	1.54
The structures are inclusive and gender-sensitive	18.2%	15.2%	7.1%	28.3%	31.3%	3.39	1.51
County structure requires resources for its implementation.	17.2%	20.2%	3.0%	33.0%	26.3%	3.31	1.48
County structures are well funded.	23.2%	27.3%	6.1%	21.2%	22.2%	2.92	1.52
The county structures are effective across.	26.3%	29.3%	9.1%	15.2%	20.2%	2.74	1.50

Source: Research Data (2024)

As presented in Table 1: above, about 31.3% of the participants totally disagreed that Alego-usonga sub-county public participation structures are perfectly and properly understood by the public, 23.2% disagreed, 19.2% of them strongly agreed, 16.2% agreed, while 10.1% were undecided. The findings above are in agreement with a research carried out at the Institute of Economic affairs, Kenya (Oduor *et al.*, 2015) which cited no clear public participation structures as main hindrances to sustainability of the government projects in Kenya's four Counties namely; Kisumu, Turkana, Makueni and Isiolo. When the respondents were requested to offer their views if public participation structures were well utilized, documented and organized at the county level, 19.2% strongly agreed, 13.1% agreed, while 10.1% of them were undecided. About a third of the participants, (34.3%) and 23.2% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively.

In an effort to establish if public participation structures are inclusive and gender sensitive, 31.3% strongly agreed, 28.3% agreed, 18.2% strongly disagreed, 15.2% disagreed and 7.1% were undecided. On whether public participation structures require resources for its implementation at all levels, 33.3% agreed, 26.3% strongly agreed, 20.2% disagreed, 17.2% strongly disagreed and 3.03% were undecided. These findings are similar to that of Zagorsky (2007), which asserts that inadequate resource, underfunding and untimely funding has been cited as the main reason that has contributed to poor sustainability of the projects. Concerning funding of the public participation structures, over 50% of those who were engaged could not agree with the statement, 22.2% strongly agreed, 21.2% agreed while 6.1% of them were undecided. From the study, Majority of the respondents disagreed that Public-participation structures are adequately funded at the sub-county level. Actually, to adequately participate in these forums, majority expect to be facilitated with transport, meals and other required documents which hardly happen. Lastly, when asked to give their views on the effectiveness of public participation structures across the three levels within the county, 29.3% of the participants disagreed, 26.3% strongly disagreed, 20.2% strongly agreed, 15.2% agreed and 9.1% were undecided.

Public Participation Processes

The study was geared towards understanding the effects and impacts of Public Participation processes employed on sustainability of Government related projects in Alego-usonga sub-county. The respondents were asked give their opinions as per the under mentioned statements. Findings are captured in Table 2: below.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics on effect of Public participation processes

Statement	SD	D	U	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev
The Sub-county offers sufficient information for public participation.	36.4%	26.3%	8.1%	15.2%	14.1%	2.44	1.47
The public is engaged throughout project planning.	31.3%	21.2%	13.1%	17.2%	17.2%	2.68	1.50
The public is consulted so as to obtain feedback on their views.	37.4%	30.3%	8.1%	9.1%	15.2%	2.34	1.44
The county government promotes meaningful processes of public participation.	33.3%	31.3%	6.1%	11.1%	18.2%	2.49	1.48
The citizens are enabled to make final decision-making.	38.4%	33.3%	8.1%	10.1%	10.1%	2.20	1.33
The Public participation processes employed by the sub-county are effective.	30.3%	29.3%	9.1%	16.2%	15.2%	2.57	1.45

Source: Research Data (2024)

Table 2 above shows percentages for the Public participation processes. Majority of the respondents, 36.4% strongly disagreed that county offers sufficient information for public participation, 26.3% disagreed, 15.2% agreed, 14.1% strongly agreed, while 8.1% were undecided. The findings are in line with that of Schlozman *et al* (2012), which asserts that insufficient information and low level of perception by Citizens had some impact on the decision-making process hence subsequently influencing sustainability of projects. Out of the number that was asked to give their views on public engagement throughout project planning, 31.3% strongly disagreed, and 21.2% disagreed, an equal number of 17.2% agreed and strongly agreed, while 13.1% of the respondents were undecided. On issue of adequate public consultation, 30.3% disagreed, 15.2% strongly agreed, 9.1% agreed, while 8.1% were undecided.

Majority, 37.4% strongly disagreed with the statement. The sub-county therefore has a duty on how to establish an efficient communication channel with the local enablers as well as citizens with the sole aim of consulting and sharing relevant information with the community so as to take into consideration their views. Allowing citizens to participate in the government undertakings not only leads to greater understanding of responsibilities, but also breaks down barriers between citizens and government and also empowers the people (KSG, 2015). The study further sought to obtain the views of the respondents on promotion of meaningful processes of public participation by the county government, 33.3% strongly disagreed, 31.3% disagreed, 18.2% strongly agreed, 11.1% agreed and 6.1% were undecided. The second last statement under public participation processes aimed at establishing if citizens were enabled to take part in decision-making, 38.4% strongly disagreed, 33.3% disagreed, an equal number of 10.1% agreed and strongly agreed and 8.1% were undecided. These findings are similar to those by Mathbor (2008) which reiterates and acknowledges the importance of empowering, educating and informing people on the processes of community participation majorly to enhance sustainability of projects.

Finally, on the statement relating to effectiveness of public participation processes employed by the sub-county, the study discovered that, 29.3% of participants disagreed, 16.2% agreed, 15.2% strongly agreed,

9.1% of the participants were undecided while majority, 30.3% strongly disagreed. Actually, this could be due to the fact that most of the citizens preferred projects were not implemented thus terming public participation processes within the sub-county ineffective. Findings are similar to that of Mary (2009) which revealed that citizens would only declare public-participation processes ineffective and unproductive if their preferred projects could not be implemented at various levels within the county. The study further revealed that the requisite process that facilitates public participation were essential towards enhancing sustainability of government funded projects. All the questions relating to public participation processes have a smaller standard deviation (SD=1.45, Mean=2.45). Because the standard deviation is closer to the mean, this actually shows the consistency of the data, hence high accuracy of the outcomes.

Public-Private Partnership

The third aim of this research was also to establish the effect of public- private partnerships on sustainability of government- funded projects in Alego –Usonga Sub –County. Respondents were further asked to react to each statement under this objective. The outcomes were as depicted in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics on effect of Public-private partnership

Statement	SD	D	U	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev
Public-private partnership is key factor in Project development.	27.3%	27.3%	11.1%	13.1%	21.2%	2.74	1.52
The county government advocates for public-private partnerships.	27.3%	19.2%	12.1%	20.2%	23.2%	2.97	1.54
The county government promotes collaborative resource management.	19.2%	24.2%	14.1%	22.2%	20.2%	3.00	1.44
The county government has elaborate public-private partnerships policies.	19.2%	26.3%	11.1%	24.2%	19.2%	2.98	1.44
The county government educates citizens on the importance of public-private partnerships	20.2%	28.3%	10.1%	24.2%	17.2%	2.90	1.43
The county government encourages shared decision making.	23.2%	21.2%	11.1%	22.2%	22.2%	2.99	1.51

Source: Research Data (2024)

In the Table above, an equal number of 27.3% strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement that Public-private partnership is a key factor for Project development, 21.2% strongly agreed, 13.1% agreed, while 11.1% of those who took part in the study neither agreed nor disagreed. About 27.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement that the county government advocates for public-private partnerships, 23.2% strongly agreed, 20.2% agreed, 19.2% disagreed, while 12.1% of the respondents were undecided. From the figures above, more than 40 % of the respondents agreed that county government advocates for public-private partnerships thus explaining the crucial role played by various stakeholders towards enhancing sustainability of government projects. These findings therefore conform with those of Wamugu and Ogolla (2017) that stakeholder participation enhances sustainability of projects and that whenever citizens and other stakeholders were directly involved in either of the CDF Projects, time limits were easily achieved thus positively enhancing sustainability of those projects.

On the issue whether county government has a platform that promotes collaborative resource management, 24.2% of the respondents disagreed, 22.2% agreed, 20.2% strongly agreed, 19.2% strongly disagreed and 14.1% of them were undecided. Majority of those who took part in the study, 26.3% disagreed with the statement that, the county government has elaborate public-private partnerships policies, 24.2% agreed, an equal number of 19.2% strongly disagreed and strongly agreed, while 11.1% were undecided. On the statement that the county government educates citizens on the importance of public-private partnerships,

28.3% of the respondents disagreed, 24.2% agreed, 20.2% strongly disagreed, 17.2% strongly agreed, and 10.1% were undecided. Similarly, 23.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed that the county government encourages shared decision making, an equal number of 22.2% agreed and strongly agreed with the statement, 21.2% of them disagreed while 11.1% of those who participated in the study were undecided. All the questions relating to public –private partnership have a smaller standard deviation (SD=1.48, Mean=2.93). Because the standard deviation is closer to the mean, this actually shows the consistency of the data, hence high accuracy of the outcomes.

Sustainability of Projects

The study sought to examine the extent to which the indicators of Sustainability of Projects have changed, these was done through a Likert scale approach. The results are as presented in the table below.

Table 4: Descriptive statistics on Sustainability of Projects

Statement	SD	D	U	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev
The county government advocate for quality and enhancement of services.	23.2%	26.3%	9.1%	22.2%	19.2%	2.88	1.48
The county has strategies that enhance and promote long term services.	21.2%	23.2%	12.1%	20.2%	23.2%	2.98	1.46
Policies proposed by the County government enhance project's ownership	26.3%	25.3%	12.1%	22.2%	14.1%	2.73	1.43
Projects initiated at various levels are responsive to citizen's needs.	24.2%	23.2%	9.1%	25.3%	18.2%	2.90	1.48

Table 4 above shows the outcome of Project sustainability ratings by the participants. The higher number, 26.3% disagreed that county government advocate for quality and enhancement of services, 23.2% strongly disagreed, 22.2% agreed, 19.2% strongly agreed while 9.1% were undecided. From the figures above, almost half of those who were engaged in the study mentioned that the County Government did not advocate for quality and enhancement of services. This conclusion conforms to the outcomes of the study conducted by Monday, Adadu and Usman (2019), which demonstrated that majority of developments starts to fail immediately the sponsors, governments and concerned stakeholders attempts to compromise the standards of the projects or fail to address the issues that directly affects the people. Most probably, the reasons as to why citizens do not recognize any efforts made by county government in relation to advocacy of projects is because the government in one way or the other might have compromised the quality and standard of those respective projects.

In long term services, 23.2% strongly agreed, 21.2% strongly disagreed, 20.2% agreed that the county has elaborate strategies that enhance and promote long term services. 12.1% of them were undecided. From this figures, majority of the respondents, 23.2% strongly agreed that the county has elaborate strategies that enhance and promote long term services. This might have been so because county governments might have adopted and embraced the proposed top-down technique to enhance and promote long term services within the respective sub-counties. The findings conform to that of Mulwa (2016), which asserts that most county governments and organizations have adopted the proposed top-down technique to enhance and promote long term services as well as to enhance sustainability of the county projects.

About 26.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed that the Policies proposed by the County government enhance project's ownership, 25.3% disagreed, 22.2% agreed, 14.1% strongly agreed, and 12.1% of them were undecided. Finally, under the statement that the Projects initiated at various levels are responsive to citizen's needs, 25.3% agreed, 24.2% strongly disagreed, 23.2% disagreed, 18.2% strongly agreed and finally, 9.1% were undecided. More than 40% of the respondents did not agree with the statement that the Projects initiated at

various levels were responsive to citizen's needs. The findings concur with that of Williamson and Scicchitano (2014) that asserts that citizens would actually have no reason to attend public participation forums at whatever forum if their views and inputs would not be valued and not considered in decision-making. Disparity between mean and standard deviation is small and consistent; a clear indication that the dataset is consistent; thus, subsequently resulting into an accurate outcome (SD=1.46, Mean=2.87) approximately.

Inferential Statistics

The study used Pearson Correlation and Linear Regression to establish the effect of public participation structure, public participation processes and public-private partnership on between sustainability of government funded projects.

Table 5: Pearson Correlation

	Public participation structure	Public participation process	Public private partnership	Project Sustainability
Public participation structure	1			
Public participation process	-.108 , $p=.286$	1		
Public private partnership	.382** , $p=.000$	-.288** , $p=.004$	1	
Project Sustainability	.305** , $p=.002$	-.314** , $p=.002$.412** , $p=.000$	1

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

Source: Research Data (2024)

Table 5 above shows Pearsons's correlation, and the findings portrays a significant weak positive correlation between public participation structure and sustainability of government funded projects (N=99, $r=0.305$, $p=0.002$). This indicates that as public participation structure improves, there will also be a corresponding increase in sustainability of government funded projects. Generally, this result is in agreement with those of Waheduzzaman (2010) and Moi (2019) who established that a positive connection exists between public participation structures and sustainability of Government- funded projects. The study recognizes public participation structures as key factors as they guide and direct citizen's participation thus subsequently affecting the sustainability of Government- funded project. The study also discovered a weak negative and significant correlation (N=99, $r= -0.314$, $p=0.002$) between Public participation process and sustainability of projects. This actually indicates that as public participation process decreases, there will be a corresponding increase in sustainability of government- funded projects. Actually, from the results above, it's evidently clear that public participation processes are more important during the initial stages of project implementation and continues to lose value as the implementation of such projects progresses. This finding conforms to those by Mathbor (2008) which reiterates and acknowledges the importance of empowering, educating and informing people on the processes of public participation especially at the project initiation stage.

Finally, the Pearson's results further disclosed that a significant moderate positive relationship exist between Public-private partnership and sustainability of government funded projects (N=99, $r=0.412$, $p=0.000$). This depicts that, with increased effectiveness of public private partnership, there is increase possibility of enhancement in sustainability of government funded projects. This finding therefore conforms with those of Wamugu & Ogolla (2017) that stakeholder participation enhances sustainability of projects and that whenever citizens and other stakeholders were engaged in most of the CDF Projects, time limits were easily achieved thus positively enhancing sustainability of those projects.

Model Summary

Table 6: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.487	0.237	0.213	5.411

a. Predictors: (Constant), Public participation Structures, Public participation Processes and Public-private Partnerships.

b. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of Government - funded projects.

Source: Research Data (2024)

From the outcomes in Table 6 above, there is $R=0.487$ (coefficient of correlation); this depicts a moderate positive relationship between public participation and sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county. R square ($R^2 =0.237$) is the fraction of deviation in the dependent variable (Sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county) that can be accounted for by the independent variables (Public participation Structures, Public participation Processes and Public-private Partnerships). According to the findings, 23.7% variation in Sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county can be explained by public participation Structures, Public participation Processes and Public-private Partnerships as compared to a null model that has no predictors.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Table 7: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Square	df	Mean square	F	Sig
1	Regression	864.330	3	288.110	9.841	.000 ^b
	Residual	2781.326	95	29.277		
	Total	3645.657	98			

a. Dependent Variable: Project Sustainability

b. Predictors: (Constant), Public private partnership, public participation process, public participation structure

Source: Research Data (2024)

A two-way ANOVA conducted disclosed that a statistics $F(3, 95) =9.841$, $p=0.000$ was obtained thus subsequently showing that the model was significantly fit to be employed in foretelling the effect of independent variables on sustainability of government- funded projects in Alego-Usonga sub-county. The table above further reveals that, the significance value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05 as suggested and recommended by Cohen (1973); thus, making the model good fit for the data.

Coefficient of Multiple Linear Regressions

Table 8: Coefficient of Multiple Linear Regressions

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	sig	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	13.526	4.218		3.207	.002	5.153	21.899
Public participation structure	.205	.115	.174	1.793	.076	-.022	.433
Public participation process	-.244	.107	-.214	-2.285	.025	-.457	-.032
Public private partnership	.320	.114	.284	2.820	.006	.095	.546

Dependent variable: Sustainability of Government-funded projects

Source: Research Data (2024)

The results in Table 8 above established that public participation structure is not significantly associated with Sustainability of Government-funded projects ($\beta=0.205$, $t=1.793$, $p=0.076$). The outcome suggests that, a unit upgrading in public participation structure results into an improvement of Sustainability of Government-funded projects by 0.205 units. It's evidently clear from the above findings that that public participation structure does not positively affect sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-Usonga sub-county.

The regression results further uncovered that public participation processes has a negative and significant effect on sustainability of Government projects in Alego-usonga sub-county ($\beta = -0.244$, $t=-2.285$, $p =0.025$). The results suggest that, a unit improvement in public participation processes results into a decrease of sustainability of government-funded projects by 0.244 units. From these results, conclusion can then be made that public participation processes affected sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county negatively.

Finally, the research discovered that public-private partnership is positively and significantly associated with sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county ($\beta = 0.320$, $t=2.820$, $p=0.006$). The outcome also suggests that a unit enhancement in public-private partnership results into an improvement of Sustainability of Government-funded projects by 0.320 units. Therefore, Public- private partnership positively affected sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county. The results are in agreement with the assertions made by Wanyonyi (2016) who aimed to examine factors hindering completion of county developments and revealed that political goodwill, intervention and partnerships from the local leaders, private partners, public and Members of County Assembly (MCAs) had a greater impact towards completion of county projects.

Because the study model is significant, the equation relating the three independent variables and the Sustainability of Government-funded projects is $Y = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3 + \epsilon$

Since ϵ 's summation =0, the model can then be written as $Y = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3$. Thus, after substituting the coefficient of multiple linear regression and actual variables, the equation becomes:

Sustainability of projects = $13.526 + 0.205(\text{Public participation structure}) - 0.244(\text{Public participation processes}) + 0.320(\text{Public-private partnership})$.

The model shows that if all other variables are held constant, a unit change in public participation structure leads into a unit change in project Sustainability by 0.205 or 20.5%. On the same breath, a unit change in Public-private partnership, when all variables are held constant, results into a unit change of project sustainability by 0.320 or 32.0%. However, when all variables are held constant, a unit change in public participation processes negatively affects the sustainability of projects by 0.244 or 24.4%. From the model, it's clear that a significant bond exists between public participation processes and Public-private partnership and sustainability of projects.

The results of the study show a weak positive relationship between public participation structures and Sustainability of Government funded projects ($N=99$, $r = 0.305$, $p = .002$). The results also reveal that public participation structures are associated with Sustainability Government funded projects but not significantly ($\beta = 0.25$, $t=1.793$, $p=0.076$). The results partly conform to the findings of Waheduzzaman (2010) and Moi (2019) who established that positive correlations exist between public participation structures and sustainability of Government funded projects. Their findings did recognize county public participation structures as key factors as they guide and direct citizen's participation thus subsequently affecting the sustainability of Government funded projects.

On Public participation processes, a weak negative connection is noticed between public participation processes and sustainability of Government- funded projects ($N=99$, $r = - 0.314$, $p = .002$). The findings showed that relationship is inversely proportional to sustainability of Government- funded projects. The

regression model also showed that public participation processes is negatively and significantly associated with sustainability of Government- funded projects ($\beta = -0.244$, $t=-2.285$, $p =0.025$). The results were in agreement with the conclusions made by Mary (2009) who reiterated that, even though the public were involved in the organization of developments and public participation, the results revealed that processes negatively and inversely affected sustainability of government funded projects.

Finally, the finding of the research identified a moderate positive relationship between Public- private partnership and sustainability of Government- funded projects ($N=99$, $r = 0.412$, $p = 0.000$). The study shows that with enhancement of Public- private partnerships within the sub-county, there will be increased probability of improvement in sustainability of government funded projects. The regression model also shows that Public- private partnerships associate positively and significantly with sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county ($\beta = 0.320$, $t=2.820$, $p=0.006$). The results were consistent with the findings of Wanyonyi (2016) and Wamugu and Ogolla (2017) who found out that effective and meaningful public-private partnership enhances Sustainability of projects. The study established that whenever citizens and other stakeholders were directly involved in most of the CDF Projects, time limits were easily achieved thus positively enhancing sustainability of those projects. Proper and robust platform from the organization and respective County governments will enhance sustainability of Government-funded projects.

The results explain the importance of community engagements and participation within the organization and counties. The results agree with those of Akumu and Onono (2017) that effective and meaningful community engagements and participation was crucial for better sustainability of Government- funded projects. It was evidently observed that when community engagements and participation are effective, Sustainability of the projects tend to improve. This included use of shared decision making, shared leadership roles as well as collaborative resource management. The results show that Kenyan sub-counties have the chances to enhance sustainability of Government- funded projects by increasing the level of public-private partnerships.

SUMMARY

The research was inclined towards understanding the effect of public participation structures, public participation processes and to what extent public- private partnerships impact sustainability of Government- funded projects. The study sampled 99 Respondents in Alego-usonga sub-county. The study revealed that majority were males 54(54.5%) as compared to females, 45(45.5%). This actually shows that employments at the county offices in Alego-usonga sub-county were dominated by male workers. Most of the Sub- County workers, who had worked for more than 6 years, were aged 30-39 years and married.

The research uncovered that a weak positive relationship exists between public participation structures and Sustainability of Government funded projects ($N=99$, $r = 0.305$, $p =.002$). This indicated that as the County improves public participation structures, then there will be an equivalent increase on sustainability of the Government funded projects. However, the model showed that public participation structures is associated with Sustainability Government funded projects but not significantly ($\beta = 0.25$, $t=1.793$, $p=0.076$). As a result of the above findings, it's clear that public participation structure does not positively affect sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county.

The study too did reveal that there was a weak negative relationship between public participation processes and sustainability of Government- funded projects ($N=99$, $r =- 0.314$, $p = .002$). The findings showed that relationship is inversely proportional to sustainability of Government- funded projects. The regression model also revealed that public participation processes is negatively and significantly associated with sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county ($\beta = -0.244$, $t=-2.285$, $p =0.025$). The outcomes thus show that Public participation processes affected sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county negatively.

The findings indicated a moderate positive relationship between Public- private partnership and sustainability of Government- funded projects ($N=99$, $r = 0.412$, $p = 0.000$). The study shows that with enhancement of

Public- private partnerships within the sub-county, there will be increased probability of improvement in sustainability of government funded projects. The regression model also showed that Public- private partnerships associate positively and significantly with sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-Usonga Sub-County ($\beta = 0.320$, $t=2.820$, $p=0.006$). The findings thus showed that Public- private partnerships positively affected sustainability of Government- funded projects in Alego-usonga sub-county.

CONCLUSION

The study was oriented towards understanding the influence of public participation structure on sustainability of projects. This study reached to a conclusion that a positive but non -significant association exist between these two variables. The basis is that the p-value presented a small R-value, with a weak positive value of 0.305. Additionally, the researcher resolved that this variable does not predict sustainability of projects because the results from regression analysis indicated no significant correlation. The study also disclosed that a significant, though weak negative connection exists between public participation processes and sustainability of projects. The rationale is that the p-value indicated a small R-value, with a negative value of -0.314. Still on the same, outcomes further revealed that a significant as well as a positive correlation exists between the two variables.

The study also concludes that public participation processes is inversely proportional to sustainability of projects and that any negative change on the former positively impact the latter. The study further examines the effect of public-private partnership on sustainability of projects, here; the research also discovered that significant positive associations exist between public-private partnership and sustainability of government projects. The above conclusions were premised on the fact that the p-value displayed that the R-value was small and had a moderate positive value of 0.412. Furthermore, the researcher concluded that this variable predicts sustainability of projects bearing in mind that regression analysis indicated a significant correlation between the two variables. Based on the study outcomes, it is evident that leaders, technocrats' interested stakeholders and donors concerned with facilitating and enhancing sustainability of government funded projects should adopt appropriate element of public participation. Precisely, according to this study, these leaders and technocrats should consider and embrace Public participation processes and Public- private partnerships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conclusions from the study are important in developing reasonable interventions for restructuring and employing the appropriate strategies of public participation towards enhancing sustainability of Government-funded projects. Precisely, the findings established that Public participation processes and Public-private partnerships could envisage higher sustainability of Government related projects. On the other hand, Public participation structure is associated to dismal and poor performance of community projects in Alego-usonga sub-county.

Based on the outcomes of the research, the study proposes the under mentioned policy recommendations.

- The leadership of Alego-usonga sub-county should organize and embrace the adoption of more relevant strategies and components of public participation that enhance and boost higher sustainability of Government-funded projects. This can be done by laying platforms that enhance deliberate, effective and meaningful communication that is oriented and geared towards addressing projects- related challenges, unlike to forums which are only customized to answering of questions hence giving no chance for proper interaction and negotiations.
- Secondly, the local Government of Siaya need increase and made available the level of resources and funding of the public participation processes in Alego-usonga sub-county so as to allow more locals to take part in most of the public participation forums thus enhancing sustainability of Government-funded

projects. This can be achieved by educating the public and sensitizing them on the need take part and contribute in the forums that are meant for facilitation and financing of certain projects within the county.

- Finally, there is need to made available Information on sustainability of government related projects to the citizens. This can be realized through putting in place public participation procedures (Government of Kenya, 2016), which allows lower tier of Government to provide reliable and relevant information to the public. Still on the same, this can as well be achieved either through road shows, print media or local Chief's forums. This will play an important role towards enhancing sustainability of Government related projects.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Future scholars need expand and carry out similar studies in other sub-counties, either with similar or different variables. This will not only help in carrying out comparative analysis as well as increasing the sample size, but will also enable scholars to assess other essential factors that may equally impact the sustainability of Government funded projects.

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