

## POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION, KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

*Currently, social change is a phenomenon that is extensively celebrated in public administration. Changes in political structures have resulted in a movement in the political sphere from a more localized to a globalized concept and from centralized to decentralized institutions. Little research has been done in the Kenyan context examining the correlation between political structure and community social transformation. This study's primary goal was to investigate how political structure affects social transformation in the North Eastern region of Kenya. This study used the pragmatism philosophical framework and employed an explanatory with a descriptive cross-sectional design. The unit of analysis comprised of counties of the North Eastern region of Kenya which included Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties. The unit of observation was the senior employees (Job group M to S) in Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties. The target population was 2,002 senior employees of the 3 County governments. The research instrument generated both quantitative and qualitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics comprised of frequencies, percentages, mean score, and standard deviation. Inferential statistics included correlation analysis and linear regression analysis. The study further established that political structure has a positive and significant effect on social transformation in the North Eastern region of Kenya. Therefore, it was recommended that county administrative units institutionalize regular and structured public participation activities. This should involve creating clear mechanisms to incorporate community feedback into decision-making, ensuring that policies and resource allocations are more aligned with community needs.*

**Keywords:** Political Structure, Social Transformation, Devolved Governance

## **INTRODUCTION**

Social transformation has increasingly taken centre stage in political debates in recent years, reflecting its growing importance in shaping societal progress and governance. This heightened focus stems from a recognition that addressing deep-rooted social inequalities and driving systemic change are crucial for achieving sustainable development and equitable growth (Agbiji & Swart, 2020). Political discussions now frequently centre on how best to implement policies that foster social inclusion, economic opportunity, and overall well-being. The emphasis on social transformation is driven by a desire to address persistent challenges such as poverty, education disparities, and healthcare access, and to promote a more just and cohesive society (Allen, Lyons & Stephens, 2019). As a result, political agendas and strategies are increasingly geared towards creating transformative impacts that resonate with the diverse needs and aspirations of communities.

Devolution is crucial for social transformation as it enhances service delivery, increase citizen participation, drive economic development, and strengthen social cohesion. According to Amusa and Mabugu (2021), by transferring authority and resources from central governments to local entities, devolution enables more responsive and tailored solutions to community needs, improving healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This localized governance fosters greater public involvement in decision-making, ensuring policies align with local priorities and enhancing accountability (Batley, McCourt & Mcloughlin, 2021). In addition, local governments can stimulate economic growth through targeted investments, creating jobs and reducing poverty. By addressing local issues and promoting community engagement, devolution also bolsters social cohesion, contributing to broader and more sustainable social transformation.

The political structure within devolved governance systems significantly impacts social transformation globally, with varying outcomes depending on the country's context (Batley, McCourt & Mcloughlin, 2021). In Spain, devolved regional governments like those in Catalonia and the Basque Country have leveraged their autonomy to address local issues effectively, leading to enhanced social services and economic development (Moreno, 2022). Canada's provinces, such as Quebec and British Columbia, have used their devolved powers to tailor social programs to regional needs, improving healthcare and education (Brown & Duffy, 2021). In India, states like Kerala have utilized their devolved powers to achieve notable social improvements, including high literacy rates and effective healthcare systems (Heller, 2019).

In Nigeria, political structure challenges in devolved governance are marked by issues such as corruption, inefficiency, and inadequate administrative capacity. The devolution process in Nigeria, introduced through the 1999 Constitution, aimed to enhance local governance and improve service delivery by transferring powers to state and local governments (Yahaya & Salihu, 2021). However, entrenched corruption at various levels of government, coupled with weak institutional frameworks and a lack of effective oversight, has often undermined the intended benefits of decentralization. In Kenya, the devolution of political power was a significant reform introduced by the 2010 Constitution to address regional disparities and enhance local governance (Nyaga, 2021). While this shift aimed to decentralize decision-making and improve local service delivery, challenges have persisted (Wanyoike & Maseno, 2021).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Social change is a critical process and prominent feature of every society and over the years has become an integral feature in modern leadership and governance. Henceforth, numerous empirical studies indicate a significant correlation between governance structures and social transformation (Nyaga, 2021; Onyango & Agong, 2018; Maupeu & Robertson, 2021). A local study by Wanyoike and Maseno (2021) shows that better social transformation emanate from governance approaches. In particular, devolved system of governance can be harnessed as a force for social change (UNICEF, 2023). Further, recent survey (Sow & Razafimahefa, 2022) shows that devolved governance in Kenya has seen to have improved living standards and registered a

significant social change earning more support by majority of Kenyans. Similarly, the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey suggests the positive changes brought about by devolved governance.

In North Eastern Kenya, despite the pre-devolution state of severe social exclusion and marginalization, post devolution statistics from KNBS (2019) indicates that 3.2 million people still live in rural areas with extreme poverty and poor social standards. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2023), people in North-eastern Kenya live on less than Sh3,252 per month, or less than Sh100 per day, for food and other necessities. In addition, statistics from World Federation of Exchange (2021) shows that the North Eastern region had a general decline in poverty of around a dismal 2% over the last ten years covered by the report, compared to an overall decrease of about substantial 9.8% in other parts of Kenya.

The region's political environment is marked by a combination of traditional authority, local governance, and national political dynamics, which often result in fragmented and inefficient governance (Alwanga & Wanjiku, 2020). Key issues include inadequate representation and inclusion of local communities in decision-making processes, limited decentralization of power and resources, and insufficient alignment of political policies with regional cultural values. These challenges hinder effective governance, impede equitable resource distribution, and restrict the implementation of development programs. Consequently, the political structure's shortcomings contribute to persistent socio-economic disparities and slow social progress.

From the foregoing, it was clear that the pace of social transformation in North-Eastern Kenya was insignificantly associated with the change in political structure in Kenya. Despite significant complimentary evidences that support development of political structure impacting positively on social change and livelihoods, the same relationship was not apparent in North Eastern region in Kenya. In addition, studies conducted on political structure in Kenya had been limited to specific counties. For instance Kuria (2019) examined the effect of political process on the economic performance of Kenya; and Jensen, Kuenzi and Lee (2020) examined the effects of political parties on roll-call voting in Kenya's Parliament. However, Kuria (2019) used economic performance as the dependent variable and Jensen et al. (2020) used roll-call voting as the dependent variable. This study therefore examined the influence of political structure on social transformation in the North Eastern region in Kenya.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Literature Review**

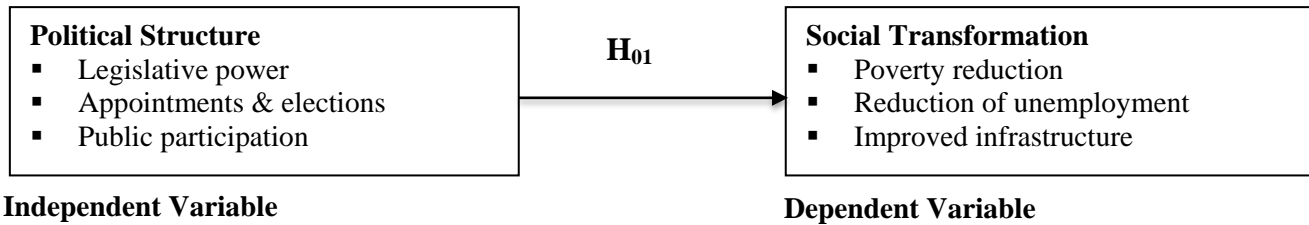
Falleti's Sequential Theory of Decentralization, developed by Ana C. Falleti in 2005, provides a detailed framework for understanding how decentralization progresses over time and its impact on political and social outcomes (Falleti, 2010). The theory asserts that decentralization is not a singular event but rather a gradual process involving multiple stages. It outlines three distinct phases: first, the delegation of authority to local governments, which involves granting administrative responsibilities; second, the devolution of decision-making powers to these local entities, allowing them greater influence over policy choices; and third, the decentralization of financial resources, ensuring local governments have the financial means to implement their decisions effectively (Ricart-Huguet & Sellars, 2023). Each stage requires specific institutional frameworks and policy measures to ensure successful implementation and adaptation to local contexts.

In North Eastern Kenya, Falleti's Sequential Theory helps explain how the political structure influences social transformation. The theory underscores that social change is most effectively achieved when decentralization is implemented incrementally, allowing for gradual adaptation to local contexts and needs (Hart & Spero, 2018). In a region like North Eastern Kenya, where traditional and political structures are deeply intertwined, a phased decentralization strategy enables the integration of local practices and cultural values into governance processes. By progressively delegating authority, devolution of decision-making, and decentralizing financial resources, the theory supports a tailored approach to governance that enhances service

delivery and community engagement, ultimately fostering more meaningful social transformation (Swanson & Ki, 2023).

### Conceptual Framework

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The independent variable in this study was political structure and the dependent variable was social transformation.



**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

### Empirical Review

Hasnain (2019) explored how the political party system in Pakistan incentivizes politicians to prioritize patronage over service delivery. Fragmentation and factionalism make it harder for voters to attribute credit (blame) for service delivery improvements (deterioration), which encourages politicians to concentrate on targeted advantages, according to the study. Polarization, especially ethnic polarization, made it harder for groups to agree on public goods, thus politicians again favoured tailored benefits.

Harris and Wild (2020) explored answers to service delivery politics. The research found that political governance affects fundamental services in all nations. This explained why service delivery results may not improve despite resource increases and formal system changes. Political interactions and reform might enhance service delivery results, it said. Despite a large and expanding body of work on the politics of service delivery, the research found that not enough is known about the linkages between governance and political environment, service delivery, and policy and practice.

Signe (2020) emphasizes public service delivery, particularly implementation and policy leaders' roles. The empirical research on policy papers found that the policy notes on political relations questions what makes policy implementation effective and what policy leaders need to do to succeed. Political relations showed that policy execution requires comprehensive knowledge by all stakeholders, appraisal, commitment, cooperation (both horizontal and vertical), and leadership, particularly in devolved administrations.

Batley, McCourt and McLoughlin (2021) explored the types of politics that support inclusive social provisioning and enhance service results. Eight successful delivery instances in roads, agriculture, health, and education were studied. Independent reviews showed better results. From national politics through sector policymaking to micropolitics of execution, the article examined these situations' political environments. The results showed that strong performance and improved delivery outcomes were linked to local sector and national politics.

### METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a pragmatism research philosophy and utilized a descriptive cross-sectional research design to assess the degree of relationship between study components at a specific point in time. The unit of analysis comprised of counties of the North Eastern region of Kenya which comprised of Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties. The selection of this region was motivated by high marginalization, slow economic growth, and persistent stagnating social transformation. The unit of observation was the senior employees (Job group M to

S) in Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties. The target population was 2002 senior employees of the 3 County governments.

**Table 1: Population of the Study**

<b>Job Group</b>	<b>Garissa County</b>	<b>Mandera County</b>	<b>Wajir County</b>
S	45	38	32
R	88	69	62
Q	77	67	70
P	127	121	119
N	199	175	173
M	194	175	171
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>627</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>2002</b>

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), the size of a sample for a particular study was calculated as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where: n is the desired sample size; z is the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level, (Z=1.96), for a confidence level of 95% which is popularly adopted in social science research; p is the proportion in the target population estimated to have the characteristics being measured; and d = is the level of statistical significance, e.g., d=5% = 0.05

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.05^2}$$

Thus, this gave the sample size of 384, which was considered to be adequate for this study which was proportionally distributed across the counties accordingly. The study employed a simple random sampling technique to select 384 employees from the sampling frame that was sourced from the respective counties public service board. Both primary data and secondary data were collected. Primary data was collected using questionnaires which was interviewer administered. The questionnaire was semi-structured and also included matrix and Likert items where possible. However, secondary data was collected through empirical and theoretical reviews of the existing literatures. A pilot study was conducted with 10% of the sample size to assess the validity and reliability of the research instrument.

The research instrument generated both quantitative and qualitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analyzing, and interpreting patterns of meaning (themes) within qualitative data. The results were presented in a prose form. Quantitative data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics comprising of frequencies, percentages, mean score, and standard deviation, was generated to allow the researcher adequately explain the distribution of scores or measures using a few indices. Inferential statistics included correlation analysis and linear regression analysis.

Diagnostic tests help in the identification of potential violations of assumptions and address them appropriately. Violations of regression assumptions can lead to biased parameter estimates, incorrect standard errors, and invalid hypothesis tests. Diagnostic tests help ensure the validity of inferences drawn from the regression model. In addition, diagnostic tests help identify influential data points that may distort the regression model. In addition, Friedman et al. (2022) indicates that by identifying and addressing violations of assumptions, researchers can have more confidence in the reliability and generalizability of their findings.

Diagnostic tests in this study included normality, multicollinearity, homoscedasticity, and autocorrelation tests.

The regression model was as follows:

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

Where;  $Y$  social transformation;  $B_0$  represents Constant;  $\beta_1- \beta_4$  represent coefficients of determination;  $X_1$  represents political structure;  $\varepsilon$  represents error term.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study's sample size comprised of 384 employees working in Job groups S to M in the North Eastern region of Kenya which comprises of Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties. The response rate was as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Questionnaires' Response Rate**

<b>County</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Garissa	140	109	77.86
Mandera	124	102	82.26
Wajir	120	101	84.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>81.25</b>

A total of 384 questionnaires were distributed to employees working in Job groups S to M in Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties, out of which 312 responses were obtained. This gives an 81.25% response rate. According to Babbie (2017), a response rate of 50% is sufficient for effective analysis and reporting, a response rate of 60% is good while a response rate of 70% is regarded as excellent. This means that the response rate of 81.25% was acceptable and hence the responses were adequate in making inferences and conclusions about the population.

### Political Structure

The objective of the study was to determine the influence of political structure on social transformation in North Eastern region in Kenya. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreed or disagreed with various statements about the political administration in their counties. The results were as presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Aspects of Political Administration**

<b>Indicative Statement</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
There is a strong legislative framework that empowers local administrative units to shape policies and regulations.	4.298	.535
The local administrative units have a significant role in legislative decision-making processes.	4.147	.659
Legislative power enables local administrative units to address local concerns and promote social transformation.	3.990	.791
The legislative power to make laws plays a vital role in shaping public policy and addressing societal issues.	4.064	.709
Effective oversight of the executive branch by the legislature ensures accountability and prevents abuse of power.	3.942	.831
The process of appointing key officials in local administrative units is transparent and based on merit.	3.852	.847
Local administrative units have the autonomy to make appointments that reflect the diversity and expertise required for effective governance.	4.115	.777
Free elections allow citizens to choose their representatives and hold them accountable.	4.016	.719
Balanced use of both appointments and elections in different contexts can contribute to a well-functioning political system	4.211	.689
Transparency and inclusivity in appointments and elections foster public trust and confidence in the political process	4.205	.546
The public has meaningful opportunities to voice their concerns and influence decisions at the local level.	4.054	.730
Meaningful public participation in political decision-making strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of governments.	4.144	.596
Diverse and inclusive mechanisms for public participation ensure that the voices of all citizens are heard and considered.	3.964	.749
Informed and engaged citizens can contribute valuable insights and perspectives to improve policy and legislation.	4.016	.842
Transparent and accessible participation processes foster trust and confidence between citizens and the political system.	4.067	.684

The respondents agreed with a mean of 4.298 (Std. Deviation=0.535) that there is a strong legislative framework empowering local administrative units. With a mean of 4.147 (Std. Deviation=0.659), the respondents agreed that local administrative units have a significant role in legislative decision-making processes. The findings are in agreement with Harris and Wild (2020) argument that local governments are required to develop policies to guide decision making processes. As shown by a mean of 3.990 (Std. Deviation=0.791), the respondents agreed that legislative power enables local administrative units to address local concerns. The findings are in concurrence with Signe (2020) findings that legislative frameworks enable local governments to address their local communities' concerns. The respondents agreed that legislative power plays a vital role in shaping public policy as shown by a mean of 4.064 (Std. Deviation=0.709). With a mean of 3.942 (Std. Deviation=0.831), the respondents agreed that effective oversight by the legislature ensures accountability.

The respondents agreed with a mean of 4.211 (Std. Deviation=0.689) that a balanced use of appointments and elections contributes to a well-functioning political system. These findings agree with Harris and Wild (2020) findings that the electoral system plays an important role in a well-functioning political system. With a mean of 4.205 (Std. Deviation=0.546), the respondents agreed that transparency and inclusivity foster trust in the political process. As shown by a mean of 4.115 (Std. Deviation=0.777), the respondents agreed that local administrative units have the autonomy for diverse and expertise-based appointments. With a mean of 4.016 (Std. Deviation=0.719), the respondents agreed that free elections allow citizens to choose their

representatives. The respondents, on average, agreed that the appointment process is transparent and merit-based as shown a mean of 3.852 (Std. Deviation=0.847).

The respondents agreed with a mean of 4.144 (Std. Deviation=0.596) that meaningful public participation strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of governments. In addition, the respondents agreed with a mean of 4.067 (Std. Deviation=0.684) that transparent and accessible participation processes foster trust. These findings agree with Halaskova and Halaskova (2014) findings that transparency in political participation leads to an improvement in public trust. With a mean of 4.054 (Std. Deviation=0.730), the respondents agreed that the public has meaningful opportunities for participation at the local level. A shown by a mean of 4.016 (Std. Deviation=0.842), the respondents agreed that informed and engaged citizens contribute valuable insights. With a mean of 3.964 (Std. Deviation=0.749), the respondents agreed that diverse and inclusive mechanisms ensure all citizens' voices are heard.

### Social Transformation

The dependent variable of the study was social transformation, which was measured in terms of poverty reduction, reduction of unemployment and improved infrastructure. The respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with various statements on social changes in their counties. The results were as presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Social Changes in the Counties**

<b>Indicative Statement</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Absolute poverty has been reducing in our county since the start of devolution	3.996	.741
Healthcare service delivery has been increasing in our county since the start of devolution	4.000	.931
Access to education has increased in our county since the start of devolution	4.003	.723
Our county has managed to break the poverty cycle	3.926	1.025
Our County has been providing economic opportunities for the community members	4.076	.794
Significant reduction in unemployment is crucial for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society	4.009	.912
Investment in education and skills development has increased employability of the community members	4.012	.805
The promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship generates new job opportunities and contribute to economic growth	3.993	.805
The creation of flexible work arrangements improves labor market participation among community members	3.884	.921
Addressing structural inequalities, such as wage discrimination has led to sustainable unemployment reduction.	3.974	.852
Investment in water infrastructure, such as rainwater harvesting systems, desalination plants have promoted water access	4.054	.781
Drought-resistant and climate-adapted crops and agricultural practices can significantly improve livelihoods and food security in these areas.	4.080	.678
Communities in our county have access to energy sources such as solar, wind power and the national grid	4.022	.668
Improved transportation infrastructure connects communities to facilitate access to markets and services	4.118	.815
Investment in digital infrastructure bridges the digital divide, support remote learning and healthcare services	3.685	.916

The respondents agreed with a mean of 4.076 (Std. Deviation=0.794) that that the counties have been providing economic opportunities for community members. With a mean of 4.003 (Std. Deviation=0.723), the



respondents generally agreed that access to education as a result of scholarships and bursaries has increased in the county since the start of devolution. These findings agree with Nasibi (2019) observation that access to education in South Africa was improved by use of scholarships and bursaries. As shown by a mean of 4.000 (Std. Deviation=0.931), the respondents agreed that healthcare service delivery has been increasing in the county since the start of devolution. With a mean of 3.996 (Std. Deviation=0.741), the respondents generally agreed that absolute poverty has been reducing in the county since the start of devolution. The findings agree with Gaitho (2021) observation that one of the goals of devolution was to reduce absolute poverty. With a mean of 3.926 (Std. Deviation=1.025), the respondents generally agreed that the county has managed to break the poverty cycle.

The respondents agreed that investment in education and skills development has increased employability. This is shown by a mean of 4.012 (Std. Deviation=0.805). With a mean of 4.009 (Std. Deviation=0.912), the respondents generally agreed that a significant reduction in unemployment is crucial for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. As shown by a mean of 3.993 (Std. Deviation=0.805), the respondents generally agreed that the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship generates new job opportunities and contributes to economic growth. With a mean of 3.974 (Std. Deviation=0.852), the respondents generally agreed that addressing structural inequalities, such as wage discrimination, has led to sustainable unemployment reduction. The respondents also agreed with a mean of 3.884 (Std. Deviation=0.921) that the creation of flexible work arrangements improves labor market participation.

The respondents agreed that improved transportation infrastructure facilitates access to markets and services as shown by a mean of 4.118 (Std. Deviation=0.815). With a mean of 4.080 (Std. Deviation=0.678), the respondents generally agreed that drought-resistant and climate-adapted crops and practices can improve livelihoods and food security. The also respondents agreed with a mean of 4.054 (Std. Deviation=0.781) that investment in water infrastructure has promoted water access. These findings agree with Mavridis (2018) findings that investment in water infrastructure was an important component in socio-economic development. With a mean of 4.022 (Std. Deviation=0.668), the respondents generally agreed that communities have access to various energy sources. As shown a mean of 3.685 (Std. Deviation=0.916), the respondents generally agreed that investment in digital infrastructure bridges the digital divide.

### **Inferential Statistics**

Inferential statistics involves using sample data to make inferences or draw conclusions about a population. It allows researchers to generalize findings from a sample to a larger population, providing insights into relationships, trends, and predictions. Correlation and regression analysis are two commonly used techniques in inferential statistics.

### **Correlation Analysis**

The results show that there is a significant positive correlation between political structure and social transformation in the North Eastern region ( $r = 0.565$ ,  $p\text{-value} < 0.001$ ), implying that regions with stronger political structures tend to experience more significant social transformation. The findings are in line with Signé (2020) argument that political party system has a positive relationship with service delivery in Pakistan. The findings are also in line with Harris and Wild (2020) observation that politics have a relationship service delivery.

**Table 5: Correlation Results**

		Social Transformation	Political Structure
Social Transformation	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	312	
Political Structure	Pearson Correlation	.565**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	312	312

**Regression Analysis**

Simple regression analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between political structure and social transformation in the North Eastern region. As depicted in Table 5, the R-squared for the relationship between political structure and social transformation was 0.609 which means that 60.9% of the variation of dependent variable (social transformation in the North Eastern region) was explained by political structure.

**Table 6: Model Summary for Political Structure and Social Transformation**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.780 <sup>a</sup>	0.609	0.2893	0.4947

a. Predictors: (Constant), Political Structure

ANOVA was performed to determine if the model was good fit for the data. As shown in Table 6, the F-calculated was 482.593 and the F-critical from the F-distribution table was 2.705. Because the F-calculated was greater than F-critical and the p-value (0.000) was less than the significance level (0.05), the model was considered to be a good fit for the data. This implies that the model can be used in predicting the effect of political structure on social transformation in the North Eastern region.

**Table 7: ANOVA for Political Structure and Social Transformation**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	62.444	1	62.444	482.593	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	40.112	310	0.129		
	Total	102.556	311			

a. Dependent Variable: Social Transformation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Political Structure

Regression equation was;

$$Y = 0.897 + 0.565X_3$$

As shown in Table 8, political structure has a positive and significant effect on social transformation in the North Eastern region of Kenya ( $\beta_3 = 0.897$ , p-value = 0.000). The study also established that for every unit increase in political structure, there is an associated increase of 0.897 units in social transformation. The relationship was statistically significant because the p-value (0.000) was less than the significance level (0.05). The findings are in concurrence with Batley et al. (2021) findings that political structure has an effect on service delivery.

**Table 8: Regression Coefficients for Political Structure and Social Transformation**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	0.897	0.158		5.677	0.000
	Political Structure	0.565	0.144	0.526	3.924	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Social Transformation

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that political structure has a positive and significant effect on social transformation in the North Eastern region of Kenya. The study discovered that legislative power, appointments and elections and public participation influence social transformation. This means that an improvement in political structure (legislative power, appointments and elections and public participation) leads to an improvement in social transformation in the North Eastern region of Kenya.

The study found that county administrative units do not organize public participation activities in critical decision-making processes. However, those who reported that such activities occur noted their role in addressing grievances, formulating policies, and influencing resource allocation. Therefore, it is recommended that county administrative units institutionalize regular and structured public participation activities. This should involve creating clear mechanisms to incorporate community feedback into decision-making, ensuring that policies and resource allocations are more aligned with community needs.

The study revealed significant variability in data collection structures across county administrative units. To address this issue, it is recommended that the county government standardize and strengthen data collection mechanisms uniformly across all units. Implementing a standardized approach will enhance the reliability, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of data gathered. This consistency in data collection will ensure that public policy decisions are based on more precise and uniform information, ultimately facilitating more informed and effective decision-making. Improved data quality will also support better monitoring of programs and services, leading to enhanced governance and the ability to address community needs more effectively.

### Areas for Further Research

The general objective of this study was to investigate the influence of political structure on social transformation in the North Eastern region in Kenya. However, the study focused on North Eastern region in Kenya and hence the findings cannot be applied to other regions in Kenya. As a result, this study recommends that more studies should be done to determine how political structure influences social transformation in other regions in Kenya. Furthermore, the study found that political structure can explain 60.9% of social transformation. As such, more studies should to be conducted to examine other factors that influence social transformation.

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