

Consultation as a Tool in Public Participation and Socio-Economic Development in Kericho County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT: *The 2010 Kenyan Constitution has made public involvement a priority. All public affairs should involve both state and non-state actors working in the public interest. The Kenyan Constitution highlights that participation in governance processes is not restricted by voters' election of representatives. This study, whose primary goal was to investigate the effects of consultation on socioeconomic growth in Kericho County, was inspired by the foundation and its context. This study was guided by the Cognitive Engagement Theory. Utilizing standardized surveys and interviews, primary and secondary data was gathered. In surveys, there were both closed-ended and open-ended questions. Descriptive research design was employed. The study focused on a population of 224 officers from the County Assembly and County Executive; a sample of 144 was determined by applying Yamen Taro formula and the stratified sampling technique. The acquired data was examined for completeness, its lucidity examined, arranged on the research equipment, and analysis was conducted. Descriptive and inferential statistics used. Regression modeling was employed in the study to examine the impact of public consultation on socioeconomic development. The results were displayed using tables and figures. Results indicated that the county government somewhat conducted public hearings to consults on project that are viable for the public. The results also revealed that the county government to some extent took views from public gathering and integrate into economic planning especially during budget making process. This implies that public consultation in terms of public hearing on the project viability and development of integrated economic planning were done moderately satisfactorily. The results also showed that the county government somewhat conducted public Barrazas where consulting on which project was ideal for each sub county were carried. This public Barraza's were done homogenously in each sub-county. The public Barraza's were done by the county though not frequently but assisted in pooling plans for each sub county. The interview results, indicated that all the interviewee agreed that the project was well selected and identified. According to the respondents the projects were identified during public participation conducted in every sub-county. Therefore, public consultation had a positive significant effect on socio-economic development ($P < 0.05$). This was accomplished through project collaboration across the national, international, and commercial sectors. Lastly, the least favorable significant influence on socioeconomic growth was seen in public consultation activities carried out through survey opinion ($P < 0.05$). In conclusion, the county government's socioeconomic development benefited greatly from public consultation. In addition to considering youth, women, and people with disabilities in enterprises 30% preference and reservation in procurement, the study advised that the county hire enough researchers.*

Key words: *consultation, public participation, development, socio-economic.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Public consultation

Public consultation is a crucial aspect of democratic governance, involving the solicitation and incorporation of public input into decision-making processes by governments, organizations, or other entities (Menon, & Hartz-Karp, 2019). It serves as a mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in policymaking, regulatory processes, and project implementation (Deligiaouri, & Suiter, 2021). Through public consultation, stakeholders have the opportunity to express their views, concerns, and preferences, thereby influencing the formulation and implementation of policies and initiatives that affect them (Mwesigwa, 2021).

The concept of public consultation has roots in democratic theory and governance practices, it reflects the principle that decisions affecting the public should involve input from those who will be impacted by them (Deligiaouri, & Suiter, 2020). Public consultation can take various forms, including public hearings, town hall meetings, surveys, focus groups, online forums, and written submissions, these methods allow for diverse voices

to be heard and for a broad range of perspectives to be considered in decision-making processes (Strasser, *et al.*, 2019).

Using the construction of the Cathedral in Florence, Italy, which took place between the 15th and 19th centuries and involved public participation, Mutisya (2018) provided a detailed explanation of the concept of public participation. According to Brucker, the majority of the project's finance came from the community as a whole, which also assigned members of the public with specific talents to serve as supervisors over the construction project and had an open referendum on the building plans. This construction project serves as an excellent example of the public involvement concept in action and offers helpful insights into what it entails (Berman, 2016).

Americans pushed for a change in the government's structure to make it more entrepreneurial and citizen-focused. This change was brought about by voters' demands for higher-quality services at lower costs, less red tape, and the ability to accomplish more with less (Nthiga & Moi, 2021). The populace requires improved government services that address issues as a group. Catalytic governance, collectively owned government, competitive government, and result-oriented government are some traits of a reinvented government (Kipkemoi, & Moi, 2023). Five key characteristics of this approach were recognized by Cornish, *et al.*, (2023) as launching participatory management, promoting teamwork, defending the institution through institutional empowerment, employee investment, and decentralization of authority in government corporations. Hence, public engagement fits into the tactics Kenya's government has implemented to be more resource-efficient while increasing effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity (Cherop, *et al.*, 2021).

1.2 Background

Public confidence in governments is declining globally and in every nation with self-governance (Weymouth & Hartz-Karp, 2019). These deep mistrust stems from a number of factors, including fraud, government scandals, selfishness, unrealistic expectations, and declining public spending on shared goods. Consequently, there has been a rise in voter apathy and popular indifference. Furthermore, there have been instances of violent political protests organized by angry and disillusioned residents (Bennett, 2023). According to Njiiri (2024) Kenya is among the nations that have demonstrated this tendency, strengthening ties between the public and government officials. Public-government engagement and citizen participation in important government decisions are two ways to address these issues. Citizens' participation in decision-making processes has been recognized as one way to accomplish this goal and prevent the whims of dealing with their discontent (Hill, & Hupe, 2021). As a result, the public must participate in the decision-making process by offering their opinions on matters that either directly or indirectly affect them (Quick & Bryson, 2022). According to De Oliveira (2017), civic engagement is a fundamental component of human civilization.

The idea of participatory decision making was first effectively implemented in Brazil and then expanded globally. Towards the end of the 1960s, public engagement gained importance as individuals and scholars began to question power and its role in the decision-making process. Cohen-Rimer (2023) observed that involvement has stimulated the aspirations and creativity of legislators, policymakers, and practitioners in equal measure.

Public participation according to Hao, *et al.*,(2022), is interpreted methods in which decisions reached through the involvement of nationals who consider and engages in numerous fundamentals encompassed during sharing of natural resources of the country as well as augmentation and executing essential services of the public. Through methods of government and citizen's participation, citizens are presented with an opportunity to take part in decision making regarding the choice and use of the country's natural resources. Prudent choice and use of the natural resources can boost the social and economic statuses of the citizens. As a democratic right, public participation as Opongo (2022), observes, has widely gained acceptance in both centralized and devolved governments. The phenomenon is seen to improve service delivery through enhanced civic consciousness.

Hue and Tung-Wen Sun (2022) in China found that public participation is a fundamental aspect of democratic governance, encompassing the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities. It goes beyond mere consultation by empowering individuals and communities to contribute to the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, and projects (Michels, 2019). Public participation aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in governance, while also fostering citizen engagement, trust, and ownership of public decisions (Otieno, *et al.*, 2022).

Hasan, *et al.*,(2018) discovered that, African developing nations have passed a number of laws aimed at enhancing citizen engagement in different phases of the policy-making process. The inability of Ward Committees to effectively guide public participation can be attributed to several problems, such as inadequate resources, ongoing power struggles among committee heads, and a lack of clearly defined tasks within the committee structure. Additionally, there is consistently a lack of effective ways for residents to get involved in local administration, which can be attributed to either a lack of the necessary trust between participants or a lack of examples from a large number of community organization members (Devas & Grant, 2003).

In Kenya, Muraguri, *et al.*,(2022), opine that public input is essential when making budgetary decisions involving debt because it serves as a safeguard against default risk, the macroeconomic effects of debt, and future welfare consequences of debt accumulation. While there have been notable advancements in the laws pertaining to public involvement in a number of African nations, the recorded results do not demonstrate a noteworthy surge in public participation (Montja, 2023).

Mohamud and Minja (2020) examined how the public participates in the health sector's service delivery in Garissa County. The study specifically aimed to ascertain the impact of public education, the impact of collaborative planning, the impact of public-private partnerships, and the effect of consultation on service delivery in Kenya's health care sector. From the study there is a modest level of citizen participation in public education, public-private partnerships, consultation, and collaborative planning with the County of Garissa. In order to enhance service delivery in the Garissa County health care sector, the study advises residents to engage with the County more frequently through attitude surveys, open forum meetings, and public hearings. Garissa County residents should engage in more discussions with the county by serving on advisory boards, taking part in project implementation, and conducting project feasibility analyses, since these activities can enhance the quality of services provided by the county's health care system.

Devolved government was adopted with the 2010 constitution's promulgation, and for many people, this is still the most significant feature of the document (Timboi, 2020). Kenya is not the first country to implement decentralization since many other nations, particularly those with lesser economic status, have supplanted the central government's authority over wealth to lower levels of oversight (Ngaruiya, 2019). Several studies' conclusions have demonstrated a connection between persistent poverty, inequality, and weak governance. It is well recognized that ineffective governance encourages inefficiencies and inequality in public investments since it undermines investment climate and weakens the development of jobs. Therefore, devolution was intended to solve the disparities that have long impeded economic development and growth (Wanyande & Wanyande, 2016).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Public consultation is a crucial aspect of democratic governance, involving the solicitation and incorporation of public input into decision-making processes by governments, organizations, or other entities. It serves as a mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in policymaking, regulatory processes, and project implementation. Through public consultation, stakeholders have the opportunity to express their views, concerns, and preferences, thereby influencing the formulation and implementation of policies and initiatives that affect them. Social economic development has a potential impact on personal or social changes which incorporates diversity in public interests hence according people the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives. Social economic development not only refers to means in which the health of the people is affected but also includes the ability to fund for training and education. Coupled with a discontinued improvement of the welfare of a population, economic underdevelopment can pose immeasurable negative consequences to any population. Mohamud and Minja (2020) examined how the public participates in the health sector's service delivery in Garissa County, and found that there is a modest level of citizen participation in public education, public-private partnerships, consultation, and collaborative planning with the County of Garissa. While there have been notable advancements in the laws pertaining to public involvement in a number of African nations, the recorded results do not demonstrate a noteworthy surge in public input (Montja, 2023). The inability of Ward Committees to effectively guide public participation can be attributed to several problems, such as inadequate resources, ongoing power struggles among committee heads, and a lack of clearly defined tasks within the committee structure. Penn (2020) found in a study that all the participants said that the government has the chance to engage stakeholders in genuine dialogue and consultation, but the government does not provide a forum for conversation. In Tanzania it was established that insignificant number of the community take part in their societal affairs which inescapably points scarce successes, questioning the community projects' right and sustainability.

Amin, *et al.*, (2018) in Malaysian Peninsula found that socioeconomic status and community involvement have an indirect relationship with sustainable development through organizational capability. The studies reviewed focused on participation by the public in relation to generally delivery of service, while therefore there exists a strong impetus on the issue of public consultation, the conflicting results provides a gap this study sought to fill by examining public consultation and social economic development in Kericho County, Kenya.

II. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Cognitive Engagement Theory

Meece, *et al.*, (1988), is the exponent of this model. From this model participating count on ease of access by citizen to information, ambitions to link reasonably. An increase in citizens' literateness level is basic since it allows them to acquire and understand further significant information. It is largely thought-out education imparts populace with capacity hence enhancing their competence to procedure more price to find awareness, take part in generating a methodology of organizing community. Discontentment of citizens with the government transpires in an element of illegitimate involvement for example demonstration.

The significant factors that are able to be utilized to illustrate this model consist of; political interest, knowledge one has in politics, educational level, and approval by media. Quantification of education in view of to what extend is high or low or by use of mass media if acknowledged by means of this information is based on affairs of politics. Moreover, little interest such as enticement to advance activities of management and strategies development, awareness of political issues if the public recognize political organization operations ways. The endorsement or dissatisfaction of any policy denotes that a system's efficiency is of important or not to the society (Kreiss & McGregor, 2019).

Those criticizing this model argues that its methodology do not explain the reason why a person who has attained all the requisite know- how, would be motivated to employ it to perform some tasks in a manner suggesting that they are learned. Individuals can attain and construe information, but if motivation lack is seemingly why they are not stimulated to partake. Presently it is easier to imagine an urban area with larger number of literate heights, than a high interest of politics, which get along with the media, and to identify political organization operations, however not enthusiastically contribution in actions of politics. Therefore, to understand and draw meaningful information is flawed in order to make involvement excluding motivation system model approach which quite applicable to this research is arguing that participation by the public is essential for the government operation. Nevertheless, this organization is only likely with accessibility to information by community is probable.

2.2 Empirical Review

The paper reviewed the literature on empowerment that was woven to build the study topic from other scholars and accordingly appreciated the source of those information.

2.2.1 Public Consultation and Social Economic Development

In the context of county government and citizen participation, public consultation refers to the procedure through which county authorities interact with citizens, stakeholders, and communities in order to solicit their opinions, suggestions, and contributions regarding issues of public concern, policy formulation, and decision-making. It entails inclusive, transparent, and open channels for the public to voice their opinions, worries, and preferences; these channels also allow the public to have their input taken into account when developing county policies, initiatives, and programs.

Methods of public consultation in county government may include town hall meetings, public hearings, advisory committees, surveys, online forums, focus groups, and community workshops. These methods vary in their format, accessibility, and level of citizen engagement, allowing county authorities to tailor their approach to the needs and preferences of their communities (CIDP, 2020).

Penn (2020) in a qualitative case study set out to investigate the ways in which business regulations, namely those pertaining to Inns and Villas, have affected the growth and development of small enterprises in the Virgin Islands, both directly and indirectly. The purpose of the study was to determine whether the growth of businesses in the Virgin Islands is impacted by public input on proposed business laws. In May and June of 2019, small company owners with locations on Tortola were questioned. A case study that examined the experiences of participants who owned tiny villas was included in the data analysis strategy. The data was evaluated using principles of good governance such as accountability and openness, as well as institutional theory. Every participant reaffirmed the necessity for public service organizations to communicate with and exchange information with small business owners as part of the public consultation process. Public service organizations have the chance to establish partnerships with the public through interaction in order to gain their trust. The proprietors of small businesses clarified that they are looking for information. In order to influence the legislation that may impact their establishments, they wish to voice their opinions throughout the public consultation process. All of the participants said that the government has the chance to engage stakeholders in genuine dialogue and consultation. But the government doesn't provide a forum for conversation.

A study aimed at analyzing degree of participation by community on identification of problem, decision-making, and ownership of projects, sustainability and consultation, involvement, in Kanungu District of Tanzania, its findings showed insignificant number of the community take part in their societal affairs which inescapably points scarce successes, questioning the community projects' right and sustainability.

In Malaysia, Amin, *et al.*, (2018) focused on homestay programs in an effort to better understand how socioeconomic factors, community involvement, and organizational capacity affect the viability of community-

based tourism. Data for this study came from 96 homestay operators in the northern states of the Malaysian Peninsula. The path analysis approach was utilized in this study to identify the socio-economic determinants and community participation that lead to organizational capability and sustainable development. According to the findings, socioeconomic status and community involvement have an indirect relationship with sustainable development through organizational capability. As a result, the path-analysis shows that the homestay program's use of organizational capacity will link community involvement and socioeconomic growth to sustainable development.

Waheduzzaman (2016) carried out an inquiry to check the consequences of people's being part of good governance in Bangladesh, he examined the limitations to the exercise of involving people in their administration locally, how to identify appropriate channels for making participation of citizens better in policies of development which can enhance sound governance. In order to acquire additional thoughtful replies to the questions asked in research, the inquest deployed qualitative technique. The analysis unearthed existence of numerous obstacles leading to the people partaking some setbacks included awareness lacking, no robust litigation process and poor system being involved.

Kabashome (2017) steered an investigation to establish how communal involvement impacts social, economic development on Kanungu supply of water projects at Kihigi Town Councils in Kanungu District, Tanzania being sustained. Its goal was to look into the levels by which community took part in highlighting issues of concern, discussion, making of decision, and ownership of projects being undertaken in their area. Its results exhibited negligible participation of the community which has inescapably given rise to little success levels of projects being done and are of poor quality, as the ownership of those developments by the community is questionable.

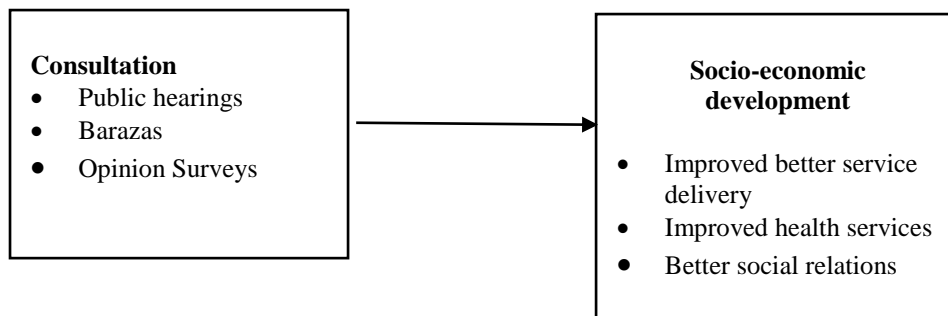
Martin and Njenga (2022) assessed how Vihiga County's community empowerment fund affected human development. The study used stratified sampling in conjunction with a descriptive research approach. The qualitative and quantitative research designs that make it easier to get data from primary sources were the main emphasis of this research approach. The 1200 individuals in 50 groups from the community and homes in the five Vihiga County sub-counties made up the study population. The study examined the essential elements of community empowerment, including savings, labor force participation, ownership of productive assets, and access to healthcare, all of which have an impact on the human development of Vihiga County residents. There were 384 people in the sample. Using SPSS version 24 software, a multivariate regression model was used to analyze the data. To identify a potential significant association for each of the three study variables and to ascertain the impact of community empowerment on human development, a multivariate regression model was utilized. The study concludes that the majority of the population in Vihiga County participates in community-based projects and that community empowerment has a beneficial impact on human development in the county. The study also finds that both genders are participating in the project development process. Ultimately, the study finds that devolution, community microfinance, and empowerment have an impact on human development in Vihiga County. According to the report, money for community empowerment ought to be made available for investments in the growth of neighborhood enterprises and initiatives.

John (2018), sought to evaluate how community involvement affects a project's sustainability at various project stages. In order to do this, the study specifically looked into how community involvement affected project management's planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation stages in terms of attaining sustainability. Information was gathered from 200 distinct participants in community programs funded by JKUAT. This accounted for ten percent of the total population. The research design for the case study was used. The samples from each stratum were chosen using a straightforward random sampling technique. 10% of the target population was sampled by the researcher, yielding a sample of 200. A self-administered questionnaire was used to gather primary data, and the internet, journals, books, research papers, theses, dissertations, and yearly reports from JKUAT were used to gather secondary data. Data was gathered using the drop and pick technique. The questionnaire's dependability and content validity were assessed. It was clear from the results that the community was not completely involved in every stage of the project's development. The majority of respondents disagreed with community engagement in the identification of community-based projects, while the respondents indicated low involvement in the project design phase. The majority of respondents disapproved about the community's involvement in project activity coordination during the project execution stage. The majority of respondents disagreed that the community established the evaluation team and assisted in developing the performance indicators, which further supported the results that there was little community involvement in the review and monitoring stage.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

Independent variable

Dependent variable



Source; Researcher (2024)

III. Research Methodology

This section lays down the methodologic tool the study adopted

3.1 Research Design

The study employed a descriptive research design that comprised fact-finding, surveys, and diverse investigations (Siedlecki, 2020). The technique helps in identifying frequencies, characteristics, trends and categories as far as variables of the study is concerned (Mohajan, 2018). According to Bloomfield and Fisher (2019), one of the characteristics of this design is that the researcher can only report what occurs; they have no control over the study's variables. As a result, this design works well since it helps to explain the phenomena around the variables. In order to draw reliable conclusions from the facts that are uncovered, Pandey and Pandey (2021) state that the descriptive study design is constructed in a way that aims to acquire relevant and exact information concerning the status of these portents wherever possible.

3.2 Target Population

The population of the study according to Lune and Berg (2017) are all groups of objects, such as human species having the same characteristic and conforming to a set of features that define the elements required and targeted to participate in a study. It is an assembly of elements from which an investigator desires to draw some conclusions (Mohajan, 2020). The study aimed 224 members working for both County Executive and County Assembly of Kericho this is because it is a representative of the entire population of Kericho County residents.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

A stratified random sample technique was used to collect data from the 144 respondents, who were Kericho County personnel working as County Executive and County Assembly. Additionally, a band that is homogeneous on the inside but blended with other strata was taken into consideration because of the variety of factors, such as the group's composition, management level, income level, and life stages, among others (Nguyen *et al.*, 2021). The following formula was used;

$$\frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

County Government of Kericho	Target Population	Sample Size
County Executive	135	87
County Assembly	89	57
Total	224	144

Source; CIDP (2023)

3.4 Research Instruments

Data was gathered via questionnaires and interview schedules. According to Mohajan (2018), the utilization of diverse data sources and collection methods is an important characteristic that facilitates cross-checking of data. Because the strength of one technique makes up for the shortcomings of the other, this combination of data collection methods and sources interviewing and using inquiry forms proliferates validity and dependability of

data (Turner, *et al.*, 2017). The selection of instruments was based on how well they met the established standards and achieved the intended goal. Since questionnaires yield meaningful results that may be extrapolated to a larger population, they are a suitable tool for gathering data from a larger number of respondents. All participants were given the same set of closed- and open-ended questions on the inquiry form.

3.5 Data Analysis Method

Both quantitative and qualitative data were gathered. Analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, percentages, and frequencies to make it easier to present the results in the form of tables and graphs (Roever & Phakiti, 2017). The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was regarded as an analysis tool since it was very effective and included a wide variety of the most common statistical and graphical data analysis, making more study material easier to understand. Condensing a large amount of data into a small number of statistics or into a visual representation such as a graph or table allowed the research findings to be presented in an understandable and straightforward manner. Additionally, regression analysis and inferential statistics were used to determine the association between the variables at a 95% significant level, and the following conclusion was reached. The model was as shown,

$$Y = \beta_0 + \epsilon$$

In which;

Y= Socio-economic development

β_0 =Constant

X_1 = Public consultation

β_1 = independent variables' coefficient

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Response Rate

The response rate of 98.6% was higher than the advised threshold of 80%. For statistical analysis, a response rate of more than 80% is considered outstanding by Mugenda & Mugenda (2013).

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

4.2.1 Public Consultation

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
We conduct public hearings to consults on project that are viable to the public.	142	1.00	5.00	3.5141	1.25328
County government take views from public gathering and integrate into economic planning.	142	2.00	5.00	3.4859	.96562
We often conduct public Barraza's where consulting on which project should be ideal for each sub county.	142	3.00	5.00	3.6549	.75367
We collect information through opinion surveys on the need of the citizen.	142	1.00	5.00	3.2394	1.33650
Survey opinions are weighted and integrated in the planning process.	142	1.00	4.00	2.6549	1.13015

Source; Researcher's Data (2024)

According to table above, the results indicated that the county government somewhat conducted public hearings to consults on project that are viable to the public (mean of 3.5141). However, there was high variation as indicated by a standard deviation of 1.25328. The results also revealed that the county government to some

extend took views from public gathering and integrate into economic planning (mean of 3.4859). The variation was moderate as indicated by standard deviation of 0.96562. This implies public consultation in terms of public hearing on the project viability and development of integrated economic planning were done moderately satisfactorily.

The results also showed that the county government somewhat conducted public Barraza’s to where consulting on which project should be ideal for each sub county average of 3.6549. This public Barraza’s were done homogenously in each sub-county as revealed shown by low variation (standard deviation of 0.75367). The public Barraza’s were done by the county though not frequently but assisted in pooling plans for each sub county.

The county to seldom collect information through opinion surveys on the need of the citizen (mean of 3.2394). The variance was high according to a standard deviation of 1.33650. The results further showed that survey opinions were not weighted and integrated in the planning process with an average of (2.6549) with high variation (standard deviation of 1.13015). This means that surveys were no associated with the planning process and were hardly integrated in to the county integrated plan.

The interview results, indicated that all the interviewee agreed that the project was well selected and identified. According to the respondents the projects were identified during public participation conducted in every sub-county. These projects are then consolidated to form county integration plan for the period of 5 years. This document is referred to while identifying the project as well as during planning process. However, proper planning needed as less than half of the project are done. Majority of the project are suspended because of high cost of the project, changes in leadership, political influence and lack of good will from the executive or county assembly.

4.3 Inferential Statistics

To test the study's hypotheses, inferential statistics were employed. The study used a multiple linear regression model to investigate the relationship between socioeconomic progress and public involvement. Model summary, ANOVA, and coefficient table were used to present the regression analysis. This was used to test the study's research questions or hypotheses.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.973 ^a	.948	.946	.18590

a. Predictors: (Constant), Public consultation,

Source; Research Data (2024)

The findings showed that there was a strong correlation between the socioeconomic development of the county and public participation through consultation. This showed that the public engagement variable explained 94.8% of the socioeconomic development; the remaining 5.2% was attributed to other factors not included in the current analysis.

4.4.1 ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	85.574	4	21.394	619.068	.000 ^b
	Residual	4.734	137	.035		
	Total	90.309	141			

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Development

b. Predictors: (Constant) Public consultation

Source ;Research data (2024)

The findings indicate a noteworthy correlation between the socio-economic growth of the county and public consultation. The findings suggested that empowering the public to participate in public life is still a crucial strategy for maintaining the county's balanced socioeconomic development.

4.4.2 Coefficient

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-1.996	.137		-14.549	.000
	Public Consultation	.704	.039	.684	17.941	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Development (SED)

Source; Research data (2024)

The results in table revealed the following relationship between variables;
 Social Economic Development = -1.996 +0.704

According to this, there was a 70.4% impact on social and economic development for every unit increase in public consultation. This suggested that the impact of public consultation on socioeconomic progress was real. According to the study, public consultation had a considerable favorable impact on the socioeconomic development of the county government (Beta = 0.704, P<0.05). Since it fosters a greater sense of project ownership, consultation is still a crucial component of public participation. According to Kabashome (2017), project sustainability is made possible by community ownership. The community's involvement in bringing attention to problems, making decisions, and taking ownership of the projects they work on has a high success rate. This supports the study's present conclusions.

V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The results of the investigation are summarized in this chapter. This covers recommendations and conclusions drawn from the findings summary. In accordance with the purpose of the study, these are shown in the next parts.

5.2 Summary

The respondents' demographic data showed a gender balance, with more than 50% of them falling between the ages of 38 and 48. The biodata showed a high degree of literacy, with twice as many employees having completed college as having attended university. The following subsections contain a summary of the objective's findings.

The results revealed that the county government conducted public hearing which enhance consultation on the appropriate project. The results also showed that public gatherings were also adopted in development of county integrated plan. Public Barraza’s were also adopted for consultation purpose. The results showed low collection of information through opinion surveys which were not given weight in the planning process. Therefore, the study found that there was positive significant relationship between public participation consultation and socio-economic development.

5.3 Conclusion

It concluded that public participation consultation had significant that is positive on socio-economic development of sub-county. The consultations were done at public hearing consultation on viable projects, public gathering and integration of economic planning and public Barraza’s. This implies that public participation consultative meeting was appropriate technique used by the county government.

The study proposes an improvement on survey which loaded the lowest adopted technique of consultation. This will require the county to employee sufficient research assistance and statistician experts who can mine information from the public as well as viable interpretations.

5.4 Contribution of the study to the Knowledge

The study's main focus was on public consultation in Kericho as a socioeconomic development. The management of the county government would benefit from this since it will help them understand important factors that affect the socioeconomic growth of various regions. Researchers and practitioners may find the research project variable useful in assessing the most significant socio-economic progress. It is significant to remember that prior research on socioeconomic development has not been conducted in Kericho County, but rather in other nations.

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