

**EFFECTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICES ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTY POLICY: A CASE OF UASIN GISHU  
COUNTY, KENYA**

**JEPKEMBOI CHIRCHIR ABIGAEL**



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**DECLARATION AND APPROVAL**

**Declaration by the Candidate**

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

Signature .....  ..... Date ..... 04/07/2025


**J CHIRCHIR ABIGAEL**

**MPAM/2023/45893**

**Approval by University Supervisor**

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor.

**Dr. Anthony Alexis**

Signature .....  ..... Date ..... 04/07/2025

Mount Kenya University.

## DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my family and children, whose steadfast love and support inspired me. I also thank my friends and well-wishers for their unwavering belief.



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First and foremost, thank you, Almighty God, for the grace and strength that carried me through this whole educational journey. Finishing this project really feels like a blessing.

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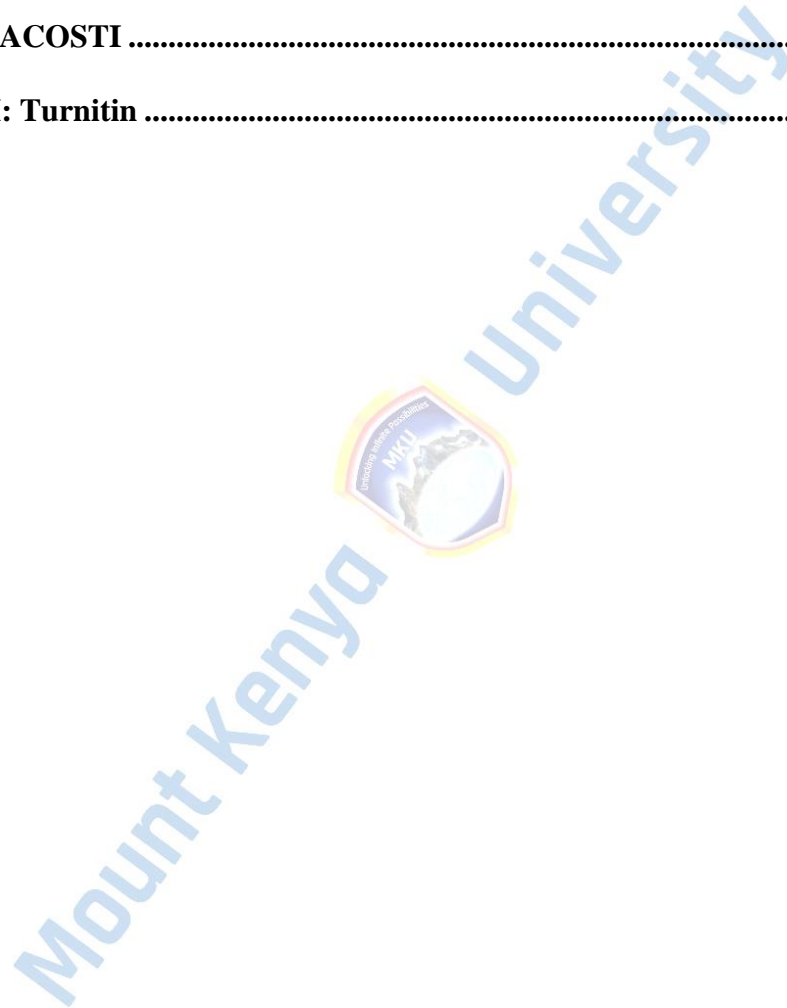
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## ABSTRACT

Policy implementation is the actualization of government plans and programs in response to societal needs. In Kenya, particularly in Uasin Gishu County, the gap between policy formulation and implementation has often been attributed to ineffective public participation. This study examined the effects of public participation practices on the implementation of county policy in Uasin Gishu County, using Kapseret Ward as a representative case. Guided by Social Exchange Theory and the New Public Management Theory, the study focused on four key objectives: to assess the effect of representation, information exchange, stakeholder interaction, and environmental factors on policy implementation. The study employed a cross-sectional survey design targeting 410 adult residents who had previously participated in public forums. A sample of 41 respondents was selected using simple random sampling. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analysed using descriptive statistics and Spearman's rank correlation through SPSS version 27. The findings revealed a statistically significant positive relationship between public participation and policy implementation ( $p > 0.5$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Specifically, stakeholder representation, effective information exchange, and stakeholder interaction significantly influenced the success of policy implementation. However, environmental factors were found to moderate this relationship, either enhancing or impeding participation effectiveness depending on political, institutional, or socio-economic contexts. Based on the results, the study recommends that Uasin Gishu County government enhance inclusivity and representation in public forums by incorporating marginalized groups and ensuring adequate sensitization on policy matters. Further, there should be structured mechanisms for timely information dissemination and feedback loops between policymakers and citizens. Lastly, the county should address contextual barriers such as political interference and inadequate facilitation to improve the enabling environment for participatory governance. The study concludes that effective public participation, anchored in meaningful representation and communication, is essential for the successful implementation of county policies. Future research may explore longitudinal impacts of participation practices on development outcomes across different wards in the county.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

**ADSE** - Australia Department of Sustainability and Environment  
**CDF** - Constituency Development Fund  
**CISP** - Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli  
**CRA** - Commission for Revenue Allocation  
**CSO** - Civil Society Organization  
**EACC** - Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission  
**G&PA** - Government and Public Administration  
**IAP2** - International Association for Public Participation 2  
**IBP** - International Budget Partnership  
**ICEA** - Institute of Economic Affairs  
**ICT** - Information Communications Technology  
**IDP** - Integrated Development Plans  
**ISCT** - Integrative Social Contracts Theory  
**KHRC** - Kenya Human Rights Commission  
**LASDAP** - Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans  
**LATF** - Local Authority Transfer Fund  
**MCAs** - Member of County Assembly  
**NACOSTI** - National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation  
**NGOs** - Non-Governmental Organizations  
**SDGs** - Sustainable Development Goals  
**SPSS** - Statistical Package for Social Science  
**TFDG** - Report of the Task Force on Devolved Government  
**TI** - Transparency International  
**UK** - United Kingdom

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Public policy, at its core, is a tool for solving societal problems. Yet while drafting policies is critical, their success ultimately depends on implementation. It is at this stage—where vision is meant to translate into action—that many well-intentioned policies unravel. As Howlett, Ramesh, and Perl (2020) point out, policy implementation is not merely administrative; it is the heart of governance. It determines whether policy objectives will become tangible improvements in people's lives or remain ink on paper.

In many cases, however, implementation proves more difficult than formulation. Frontline actors often work under conditions that limit their ability to deliver, including unclear guidelines, insufficient funding, and unrealistic expectations. This issue is well illustrated by Lipsky's (2010) concept of street-level bureaucracy, which suggests that frontline workers—such as teachers, nurses, and police officers—exercise considerable discretion in interpreting and enacting policy. The decisions they make daily, often without close supervision, have profound impacts on how policies are experienced on the ground. More recent scholarship (e.g. Tummers et al., 2015; Thomann & Hupe, 2018) supports this view, noting that implementation is often shaped by informal practices, local discretion, and socio-political context.

This challenge is even more pronounced in developing countries. Many governments still rely on centralised, top-down policy models that exclude local communities from the decision-making process. In such contexts, policies are often implemented without community input, leading to resistance, disillusionment, or outright failure. Ojha et al. (2016) argue that the lack of citizen involvement is a key factor behind implementation failure across

much of the Global South. Conversely, approaches that include citizens throughout the policy process—from agenda-setting to evaluation—have shown better results in terms of legitimacy, sustainability, and effectiveness (Perry & Christensen, 2015).

Public participation, then, is not simply a democratic ideal; it is a practical requirement for effective governance. The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2, 2009) defines it as a deliberate process that enables informed decision-making through dialogue and mutual understanding between citizens and decision-makers. Where participation is meaningful, citizens are more likely to comply with policies, monitor implementation, and collaborate with public agencies to improve outcomes. Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015) further contend that participatory processes enhance policy quality by incorporating diverse perspectives and fostering public trust.

In Kenya, the Constitution of 2010 institutionalised public participation as a central principle of governance. Articles 10 and 174 of the Constitution explicitly call for inclusive and participatory public affairs, while the County Governments Act (2012) obliges county administrations to engage the public in planning, budgeting, and development. These legal provisions were designed to dismantle the legacy of centralised authority and promote citizen-centred governance through devolution.

Yet, despite a strong legal and policy framework, the reality on the ground is mixed. In many counties, including Uasin Gishu, public participation is often superficial. Community forums tend to be poorly organised, hastily convened, or dominated by political elites. As a result, citizen input is either excluded or ignored in critical decision-making processes. Scholars such as Muia (2021) and Wagana (2021) argue that the current model of public participation is largely performative—more about fulfilling legal requirements than fostering genuine citizen involvement.

Research also shows that the success of participatory approaches depends on the broader political and institutional environment. Head and Alford (2015) warn that participation risks becoming a procedural formality if not supported by adequate resources, civic education, and genuine political commitment. In contexts with limited capacity or entrenched patronage networks, public engagement can be manipulated or marginalised. Mburu (2011) notes that in many rural and urban informal areas, lack of awareness, poor facilitation, and minimal follow-up hinder meaningful participation.

The consequences of these shortcomings are visible in Kenya today. Across many counties, public discontent is growing as promises of inclusive governance go unfulfilled. Persistent challenges—such as youth unemployment, poor infrastructure, and service delivery failures—signal a deeper issue: a widening gap between policy intentions and implementation outcomes. Studies by Emir (2016) and Henry (2017) describe this as policy failure—where well-designed policies fall short due to ineffective execution, poor coordination, or stakeholder exclusion.

This gap is particularly apparent in Uasin Gishu County. As a public administrator working in the county, I have witnessed firsthand the disconnect between government plans and community needs. In wards such as Langas, which are densely populated and socially diverse, citizen engagement is minimal. Meetings are often tokenistic, dominated by political figures, and rarely reflect the voices of the poor, youth, or women. As a result, policies that affect housing, sanitation, or job creation are often poorly aligned with the realities on the ground.

Addressing these challenges requires a more deliberate, inclusive, and context-sensitive approach to policy implementation. Scholars like Beach (2009) and Garmestani & Benson (2013) suggest that stakeholder participation can bridge the policy-implementation gap by

improving accountability, encouraging innovation, and enhancing local ownership. Behavioural research also supports this view, showing that how policies are communicated and framed can influence citizen behaviour and compliance (Emir, 2016).

International frameworks reinforce this perspective. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), to which Kenya is a signatory, states that decisions should be made with the participation of those affected. These global principles align with Kenya's constitutional vision, but the real test lies in local practice.

In summary, the gap between public policy formulation and successful implementation in Kenya remains wide. Despite progressive legal reforms and increased awareness of participatory governance, counties like Uasin Gishu continue to struggle with weak execution, limited civic engagement, and policy failures. This study, therefore, seeks to explore how public participation influences policy implementation at the local level, with a focus on understanding both the structural barriers and opportunities for reform.

### **1.1 Uasin Gishu County**

Effective policy implementation remains a critical determinant of socio-economic development, especially within devolved governance systems. Globally, decentralisation has been adopted as a strategy to improve public service delivery, foster citizen engagement, and promote equitable resource distribution (Smoke, 2015). In sub-Saharan Africa, including Kenya, devolution has been seen as a transformative institutional reform aimed at empowering communities, enhancing accountability, and addressing regional development disparities (Cheeseman, Lynch, & Willis, 2016). However, the persistent disconnect between policy formulation and actual implementation continues to undermine these objectives. Many devolved units across Kenya exhibit weak service delivery structures, minimal civic

engagement, and recurrent failures in executing locally driven development initiatives (Kanyinga, 2016; Mitullah et al., 2018).

Kenya's 2010 Constitution ushered in a devolved system comprising 47 county governments, mandated to develop and implement context-specific policies aligned with both local priorities and national development frameworks (Republic of Kenya, 2010). The Constitution further institutionalised public participation as a guiding principle in governance, requiring county governments to incorporate citizen voices in planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. However, more than a decade since the adoption of devolution, many counties still grapple with implementation bottlenecks. Among the most pressing is the inadequate integration of citizen input, resulting in policy resistance, developmental inefficiencies, and marginalisation of vulnerable groups (Gikonyo & Odhiambo, 2019; Bosire & Ghai, 2017). Uasin Gishu County is not exempt from these issues, despite being one of Kenya's agriculturally and economically vibrant counties.

Uasin Gishu County is located in the North Rift region of Kenya and covers an area of approximately 3,345.2 square kilometres. It borders Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Trans Nzoia counties, with Eldoret Town serving as its administrative and commercial centre. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2019), the county's population exceeds 1.1 million, reflecting significant demographic growth over the past decade. The county comprises six sub-counties: Soy, Turbo, Ainabkoi, Kesses, Moiben, and Kapseret. This study focuses on Langas Ward, one of the most densely populated and socially dynamic wards in Kapseret Sub-County. Langas is characterised by urban informal settlements, ethnic diversity, high levels of youth unemployment, and infrastructural strain—making it a microcosm of urban policy challenges in devolved governance. Despite its strategic importance, Langas Ward continues to experience policy implementation failures linked to

low levels of public participation, poor civic education, and systemic exclusion from decision-making processes (Wangari & Gikonyo, 2019; Kabale & Onyango, 2022).

While devolution has established legal frameworks for community engagement, including the Public Participation Act and County Governments Act (2012), actual implementation at the grassroots level remains inadequate. In Langas Ward, citizen engagement often remains symbolic rather than substantive, with meetings dominated by political elites and lacking structured feedback mechanisms. As a result, community priorities are either misrepresented or ignored during policy formulation and implementation. This disconnect undermines policy effectiveness, erodes public trust, and perpetuates cycles of underdevelopment. Addressing these challenges requires a detailed examination of the barriers to meaningful public participation in Langas Ward and the implications such barriers have on the successful implementation of county policies.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Think about it: Kenya's 2010 Constitution is all about giving power to people and making sure everyone has a say in how things are run, especially at the county level. Laws like the County Governments Act (2012) and the Public Participation Guidelines (2016) aren't just dry legal texts; they're our country's promise that citizens will be involved in decisions. The big idea is that when people get to chip in, policies actually hit the mark, serving real needs and making folks feel like they truly own what's happening in their communities. It's a vision where public involvement smoothly leads to plans becoming reality, genuinely improving lives.

But here's the catch: even with all those great intentions and laws, getting policies implemented at the county level is often a tough nut to crack. Take Langas Ward in Uasin

Gishu County, for instance – it's a bustling, diverse place with lots of informal settlements and people. Here, the gap between what policies say and what actually gets done is painfully clear. People have urgent needs, but the ways they're supposed to get involved feel clunky or just don't work. Loads of county policies end up stuck in limbo, never really seeing the light of day because people aren't truly brought into the loop, aren't kept in the know, and there's nowhere easy for their feedback to go (Murunga et al., 2020).

In Langas Ward, it's even trickier. You've got daily struggles like money worries, constantly shifting housing situations, and young people looking for jobs. All this makes residents really count on the county to deliver. Yet, if you look closely, there's a real disconnect: what citizens care about most often doesn't line up with the county's actual development plans that are supposedly happening on the ground (Wangari & Gikonyo, 2019). It often feels like a "we know best" approach from some county offices, which just kills any sense of community ownership. This can lead to folks resisting projects, delays, or even good ideas being completely dropped. Plus, when there's no clear way to give feedback, little transparency about how money is spent, and not enough education on civic matters, it's incredibly hard for Langas residents to truly shape policy outcomes (Kabale & Onyango, 2022).

So, given this whole situation, it's super important to dig in and understand exactly how public participation works (or doesn't work) in Langas Ward. We need to see what's effective, what the real challenges are, and how all of this impacts whether policies actually get implemented. If we don't get solid evidence on *why* people aren't truly engaging and what big roadblocks are stopping meaningful participation, then policies will keep failing and development will remain sluggish. That's why this study aims to figure out how public participation – or the lack of it – directly affects whether county policies actually succeed in

Langas Ward. Ultimately, we hope to help strengthen devolution, make governance more inclusive, and improve services right here in Uasin Gishu County.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Despite Kenya's robust constitutional and legal commitment to devolution and inclusive governance under the 2010 Constitution, policy implementation at the county level consistently faces significant challenges, particularly in diverse and densely populated areas like Langas Ward in Kapseret Constituency, Uasin Gishu County. Legal frameworks, such as the County Governments Act (2012) and Public Participation Guidelines (2016), clearly mandate public involvement, yet numerous county policies continue to stall at the implementation phase (Murunga et al., 2020).

Existing studies highlight several facets of this issue: limited stakeholder representation, especially of marginalized groups like women and youth, often leads to a disconnect between community needs and implemented policies (Gitegi, 2020). Wambua (2020) further demonstrated that stakeholder exclusion in decision-making erodes public trust, contributing to delays and inefficiencies in county development projects. In terms of communication, poor information exchange structures hinder citizens' access to vital policy details and limit their meaningful input (Sitienei, Nangami, and Manderson, 2018). While some dissemination efforts exist, their reach and inclusivity, particularly in rural and informal areas, remain low, fostering a lack of continuous engagement and eroding public confidence (Murithi, Sitienei, and Manderson, 2021; Sitienei, Nangami, and Manderson, 2018). Furthermore, while joint stakeholder forums can positively contribute to transparency, their sustainability is often

weak, being driven more by external influence than institutionalized county structures (Samwel and Mwangi, 2020; Nabatchi and Amsler, 2014).

In Langas Ward specifically, these systemic challenges are compounded by unique local dynamics, including socio-economic constraints, informal housing, and high youth unemployment, which amplify residents' expectations from county initiatives. Yet, a persistent top-down approach by some county departments, coupled with poor feedback mechanisms, lack of budget transparency, and limited civic education, suggests a significant disconnect between citizen priorities and actual implemented development plans (Wangari & Gikonyo, 2019; Kabale & Onyango, 2022).

The existing literature broadly acknowledges the importance of public participation; however, there remains a critical empirical gap in understanding the specific nature, effectiveness, and interaction of diverse public participation practices within the unique socio-political context of Langas Ward, and their precise implications for policy implementation success. Without this detailed, localized empirical evidence explaining the root causes of weak citizen engagement and the structural barriers inhibiting effective participatory governance in such a complex environment, policy failures and underdevelopment will likely persist. Therefore, this study is critically necessary to investigate how various public participation practices directly influence county policy implementation in Langas Ward, providing vital evidence-based recommendations to strengthen devolution, promote genuine inclusivity, and ultimately enhance service delivery in Uasin Gishu County.

### **1.3.1 Specific Objectives of the study**

- (i) To investigate the effects of stakeholder representation in decision-making on policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County.

- (ii) To examine how information exchange among stakeholders influences the effectiveness of policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County.
- (iii) To establish the impact of stakeholder interaction on successful policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County.

#### **1.4. Research Questions**

- (i) What are the effects of stakeholder representation in decision-making on policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County?
- (ii) How does information exchange among stakeholders influence the effectiveness of policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County?
- (iii) What is the impact of stakeholder interaction on the successful implementation of policies in Uasin Gishu County?

#### **1.5 Justifications of the Study**

This study was driven by a simple but important question: how can we make public participation in policy-making more meaningful, especially at the local level? In Uasin Gishu County, like many parts of Kenya, people often feel disconnected from the decisions that affect their lives. By involving citizens more directly in development conversations, this study helps bridge that gap. It gives ordinary residents a chance to share their views, ask questions, and understand how public decisions impact their everyday lives. In turn, this makes policy more grounded, inclusive, and responsive to real community needs.

For the government—both at county and national levels—the findings offer useful ideas on how to improve citizen engagement. Policymakers and administrators can use these insights to create better platforms for dialogue, build trust, and encourage shared responsibility in

implementation. This approach helps reduce resistance to change, strengthens transparency, and ensures that policies have community support from the outset.

The county government, in particular, stands to benefit from this kind of engagement. When people are involved early and meaningfully, they are more likely to support and sustain public projects. This creates a stronger sense of ownership, leading to better service delivery and more lasting development outcomes—especially in areas like poverty reduction, youth inclusion, and infrastructure development.

Beyond practice, this study also adds to the academic conversation. It explores how theories like social exchange and participatory governance apply in real-life situations and invites reflection on frameworks such as New Public Management and bottom-up policy design. For researchers, students, and scholars, it provides a grounded case study that shows why participation matters—not just as a democratic ideal, but as a real driver of policy success.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This study set out to understand how involving the public affects the success of policy implementation at the county level, with a specific focus on Uasin Gishu County. Langas Ward in Kapseret Constituency was chosen because it's a lively, urban area with a diverse population and visible community involvement—ideal for studying how people take part in decision-making.

The research mainly looked at three things: how people are represented in decisions, how information flows between the public and government, and how well different groups work together. These areas were chosen because they directly shape how policies are received and put into action, especially in a devolved system like Kenya's.

The time frame of the study begins after the 2010 Constitution came into effect, since this marked a major shift in governance through devolution. The focus was on county policies

that affect everyday services such as roads, healthcare, education, and other local development projects. National-level policies and programmes outside Uasin Gishu were not included, to keep the study locally grounded.

Participants in the study included ordinary residents, community leaders, civil society actors, and county government officials. The research used both surveys and interviews to get a fuller picture—combining numbers with people’s real experiences and views.

Some potentially important factors—like political interference, funding limitations, or institutional weaknesses—were not explored in detail. This was a deliberate choice to allow the study to stay focused on public participation and to remain manageable within the available time and resources.

### **1.7 Limitations of the Study**

One key limitation was the limited public understanding of devolution among some respondents. Since the 2010 Constitution introduced new governance structures, not all citizens or local officials fully grasp the principles of public participation. This may have influenced how some questions were interpreted or answered. To manage this, the researcher and assistants gave brief, clear explanations during data collection.

Another challenge was the timing of the study. Many public participation structures in Uasin Gishu County were still evolving, making it difficult to assess long-term impact. As such, the findings mostly reflect early experiences with devolution, which may not apply across all counties or future periods.

The use of self-administered questionnaires also introduced risks of bias—especially where respondents wanted to give socially acceptable answers or avoided sensitive topics. To reduce this, the questionnaires were neutrally worded, confidentiality was assured, and follow-up interviews were conducted to cross-check responses.

Other difficulties included limited cooperation from a few respondents, often due to fears around political sensitivity or privacy. These concerns were addressed through official university introduction letters and assurances that all information would be kept confidential and used strictly for academic purposes. Language barriers also arose in a few cases, particularly among respondents more comfortable in local languages. Bilingual research assistants were used to translate and clarify questions where needed.

### **1.7.1 Limitations of the Study**

Geographically, the study was limited to Langas Ward in Kapseret Constituency, Uasin Gishu County. Although the county has several other wards, Langas was chosen due to its urban setting, diverse population, and relatively active civic engagement. These characteristics made it a fitting case for exploring how public participation shapes policy implementation.

Conceptually, the study focused on three dimensions of participation: stakeholder representation, information exchange, and collaboration. While other factors like political interference, funding limitations, or institutional capacity may also influence implementation, these were intentionally excluded to keep the research focused and manageable.

Methodologically, the study was restricted to county-level policies under the devolved governance structure. National-level policies or private-sector models were not covered, to maintain contextual relevance and ensure the study stayed within available time, financial resources, and data access.

## 1.8 Operationalisation of Terms

**Collaboration Practices** – In this study, collaboration practices refer to the extent to which government agencies engage the public in all stages of decision-making, including the development of alternative solutions and the selection of preferred options. Collaboration will be assessed through indicators such as citizen organizations and strategic partnerships.

**Consultation Practices** – This refers to the mechanisms through which the government seeks input from the public on matters of governance, primarily by collecting and incorporating public opinions. In the context of this study, consultation practices will be measured in terms of their scope, the levels at which they occur, and the feedback mechanisms employed.

**Public participation practices** – The public participation practices is a strategic planning instrument that guides the implementation of a county government's development priorities in a structured and coherent manner. It serves as a roadmap for aligning resources, projects, and community needs over a specified planning period.

**Empowerment Practices** – Empowerment practices in this study denote public participation mechanisms that grant final decision-making authority to the public. These practices will be evaluated based on the presence of incentives and capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing community autonomy and influence.

**Informing Practices** – Informing practices represent the most basic form of public engagement, where citizens are made aware of government decisions and activities but are not directly involved in decision-making processes. In this

study, informing practices will be assessed through indicators such as public sensitization efforts, the communication media utilized, and facilitation methods employed.

**Public participation practices** – These refer to constitutionally mandated processes through which the public, regarded as key stakeholders, are involved in decision-making on development projects, resource allocation, and policy formulation. Public participation practices are aimed at ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in governance.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews existing literature relevant to public participation and county policy implementation. It critically examines past studies, theoretical foundations, and empirical evidence that inform the relationship between public participation practices and effective policy implementation. The study adopts relevant theoretical perspectives to explain how citizen engagement influences policy outcomes. Furthermore, the chapter presents a conceptual framework that illustrates the linkages among the key variables—namely, public participation practices and county policy implementation—providing a structured foundation for the research.

#### 2.1 Empirical Review

Empirical studies increasingly highlight public participation's role in policy implementation, especially in devolved systems like Kenya's. Research in Uasin Gishu County by Gitegi (2020) and Wambua (2020) showed that limited representation, particularly of women and youth, and stakeholder exclusion, reduce trust, causing disconnects, delays, and inefficiencies in county projects. Poor communication structures, as identified by Sitienei, Nangami, and Manderson (2018) and Murithi, Sitienei, and Manderson (2021), hinder citizens' access to policy details and discourage engagement despite existing efforts like barazas, particularly in rural areas.

Regarding collaboration, Samwel and Mwangi (2020) found joint stakeholder forums positively impact transparency, though often short-lived or externally driven, aligning with Nabatchi and Amsler's (2014) argument for institutionalized support. These findings

collectively underscore that inclusive representation, accessible information, and sustained collaboration are crucial for successful policy implementation in devolved governance contexts like Uasin Gishu County. However, further research is needed to understand how these practices interact across different sectors.

### **2.2.1 Stakeholder Representation in Decision-Making and Policy Implementation**

Stakeholder representation is increasingly recognised as a foundational pillar of democratic governance and effective public policy implementation. It refers to the equitable and inclusive involvement of diverse societal actors—citizens, civil society organisations, community-based groups, private sector players, and traditionally marginalised populations—in the policy-making and implementation processes (Dryzek et al., 2019). Contemporary public administration literature underscores that when stakeholders are authentically represented in decision-making structures, there is greater legitimacy, trust, responsiveness, and alignment of policy objectives with local needs and expectations (Ansell & Gash, 2018; Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014).

Theoretical perspectives such as participatory governance, deliberative democracy, and co-production frame stakeholder representation not merely as a normative ideal, but as a practical necessity for enhancing public value and democratic accountability (Fischer & Gottweis, 2019; Torfing et al., 2020). Effective representation involves moving beyond tokenistic involvement toward substantive engagement, where stakeholder input informs decisions and influences outcomes (Eckerd & Heidelberg, 2020). In this regard, decision-making becomes more inclusive, contextually grounded, and resilient, especially in complex governance environments like Kenya's devolved county governments.

In the Kenyan context, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the County Governments Act (2012) institutionalised public participation as a legal obligation, mandating county

governments to ensure that all citizens and interest groups are actively involved in governance processes. This legal framework aimed to correct historical marginalisation and promote equity, transparency, and accountability in local decision-making. Empirical research confirms that inclusive representation significantly enhances policy outcomes by fostering citizen ownership and community legitimacy. For example, Kivoi and Mbae (2021) found that participatory mechanisms that included youth, women, and persons with disabilities in Nairobi and Makeni counties contributed to better service delivery, reduced conflict, and improved developmental outcomes.

Similarly, Nyadera et al. (2022) demonstrated that stakeholder engagement—when inclusive and structured—facilitates more adaptive and context-sensitive policy implementation. Their study across six counties highlighted how active involvement of civil society organisations and community leaders led to more tailored, needs-based health and education policies. However, they also cautioned that stakeholder representation must be matched by sufficient institutional support, political goodwill, and continuous civic education to be effective.

Despite these legal and structural provisions, many counties still struggle with superficial or symbolic forms of participation that limit meaningful stakeholder influence. Musau and Gakuu (2020) observed that in several devolved units, public participation forums are often poorly timed, inadequately advertised, and dominated by political elites, thereby excluding grassroots voices. Such tokenism erodes trust and fosters public disillusionment, which in turn weakens implementation outcomes. Additionally, Eckerd and Heidelberg (2020) argue that when participation is limited to information sharing without deliberation or feedback loops, it becomes ineffective at resolving conflicts or building consensus.

A critical dimension of stakeholder representation is the need to recognise and dismantle barriers to inclusion. These include socio-cultural constraints, limited access to information,

low literacy levels, gender-based exclusion, and systemic marginalisation of minorities. Research by Kimathi and Kombo (2021) on stakeholder dynamics in Kisumu County revealed that structural inequalities often prevent vulnerable groups from effectively participating in county budgetary and planning processes. This lack of representational equity often results in misaligned priorities, policy rejection, or outright resistance during implementation.

In Uasin Gishu County, the situation reflects broader national trends. While institutional frameworks for stakeholder participation exist, their implementation remains inconsistent and often compromised by political interference, limited civic awareness, and logistical inefficiencies (Chesang & Too, 2021). For instance, Rono and Chebet (2022) report that local ward forums and budgetary hearings are frequently dominated by local elites, sidelining critical voices from youth, women, and informal sector groups. Consequently, county policies risk being skewed towards elite interests, thereby reducing community ownership and hindering effective policy execution.

To address these gaps, several scholars recommend adopting deliberative and co-productive approaches to stakeholder representation. Torfing et al. (2020) argue for “interactive governance” models that actively engage multiple actors in policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Such approaches require not only legal mandates but also capacity building, institutional incentives, and political commitment to inclusivity. Moreover, technology can play a pivotal role in enhancing representation by using digital platforms to collect feedback, broaden participation, and increase transparency (Aitamurto et al., 2016).

The stakeholder representation is not a peripheral concern but a central mechanism for enhancing policy relevance, effectiveness, and legitimacy. For counties like Uasin Gishu,

building inclusive governance structures requires deliberate efforts to strengthen civic education, institutionalise participatory budgeting, dismantle exclusionary practices, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability. When stakeholders are authentically represented and empowered to shape decisions, public policies are more likely to succeed, adapt to local realities, and achieve sustainable outcomes.

### **2.2.2 Information Exchange among Stakeholders and Policy Implementation**

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In the Kenyan context, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the County Governments Act (2012) institutionalised public participation as a legal obligation, mandating county governments to ensure that all citizens and interest groups are actively involved in governance processes. This legal framework aimed to correct historical marginalisation and promote equity, transparency, and accountability in local decision-making. Empirical research confirms that inclusive representation significantly enhances policy outcomes by fostering citizen ownership and community legitimacy. For example, Kivoi and Mbae (2021) found that participatory mechanisms that included youth, women, and persons with disabilities in Nairobi and Makeni counties contributed to better service delivery, reduced conflict, and improved developmental outcomes.

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The stakeholder representation is not a peripheral concern but a central mechanism for enhancing policy relevance, effectiveness, and legitimacy. For counties like Uasin Gishu, building inclusive governance structures requires deliberate efforts to strengthen civic education, institutionalise participatory budgeting, dismantle exclusionary practices, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability. When stakeholders are authentically represented and empowered to shape decisions, public policies are more likely to succeed, adapt to local realities, and achieve sustainable outcomes.

### **2.2.3 Stakeholder Interaction and Collaboration in Policy Implementation**

Stakeholder interaction and collaboration are increasingly recognized as fundamental pillars for effective policy implementation, particularly in devolved governance systems like those adopted in Kenya. Collaboration entails more than just consultation; it involves sustained engagement in joint planning, decision-making, execution, and monitoring of policy actions among diverse actors, including government agencies, civil society, private sector entities, and community representatives (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Odhiambo & Taifa, 2021). In the context of county governments, stakeholder collaboration provides a mechanism to pool scarce resources, share expertise, and enhance legitimacy in public policy processes.

The Kenyan Constitution (2010) explicitly mandates citizen and stakeholder involvement in governance, setting the legal basis for collaborative governance within county administrations. This has led to the proliferation of participatory frameworks such as public barazas, budget hearings, and sectoral forums, although their effectiveness often varies significantly by county. In a study on collaborative governance in Kenya's devolved units, Wambua and Njuguna (2018) assert that joint planning and implementation among stakeholders improve service delivery outcomes by aligning diverse interests and consolidating institutional capacities. Their findings support the argument that collaboration

is not merely normative but functionally instrumental to the realization of devolved policy objectives.

In Uasin Gishu County, collaboration among stakeholders has yielded tangible outcomes, especially in the health and agriculture sectors. Kiprotich and Bett (2023) conducted an empirical study involving Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, revealing that inter-agency coordination and stakeholder forums significantly enhanced healthcare service delivery. Through shared monitoring tools, harmonized service charters, and integrated performance targets, health facilities were better positioned to meet community health needs. Similarly, Chesang and Too (2021) observed that collaborative frameworks between county government departments and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Uasin Gishu's agricultural sector improved the uptake of subsidized inputs and adoption of climate-resilient farming practices. These improvements were attributed to joint training sessions, participatory needs assessments, and community-led monitoring initiatives.

Inclusive budgeting processes also offer a viable entry point for stakeholder collaboration. Chege and Maina (2019) highlight that when stakeholders—including ward development committees, youth groups, and professional associations—are involved in budget formulation and prioritization, there is improved financial transparency, reduced elite capture, and a higher sense of ownership over implemented projects. In Nyeri and Uasin Gishu counties, participatory budgeting has not only reduced conflict over resource allocation but also enhanced public satisfaction with county projects (Munyao, Mutua, & Wambua, 2020).

Despite these successes, collaborative policy implementation still faces notable challenges. Kimani and Kariuki (2021) identified institutional rigidity, lack of role clarity, and political patronage as key barriers that frustrate genuine stakeholder engagement in Kenyan counties.

Power asymmetries often result in tokenistic involvement of marginalized groups, while elite domination can derail collective goals. In counties such as Uasin Gishu, these challenges manifest in selective invitation to public forums, limited feedback mechanisms, and the marginalization of non-aligned civil society actors (Rotich, 2022).

To overcome these barriers, scholars advocate for the institutionalization of collaborative governance structures that promote transparency, role clarity, mutual trust, and accountability. This includes developing legal frameworks for stakeholder engagement, standardizing participation protocols, and embedding feedback loops within the policy implementation cycle (Mueni & Njuguna, 2022). Moreover, capacity building for both government officials and community stakeholders is essential to bridge knowledge gaps and promote meaningful participation (Otieno & Barasa, 2023).

Importantly, collaboration is not a one-size-fits-all approach; it must be tailored to local contexts. For instance, in Uasin Gishu County, stakeholder mapping and continuous engagement strategies have been more successful when customized to sectoral needs—such as farmer cooperatives in agriculture and community health units in healthcare (Chesang & Too, 2021; Kiprotich & Bett, 2023). Therefore, context-sensitive collaboration, anchored in shared goals and supported by inclusive structures, remains critical for effective policy implementation at the county level.

### **2.3 Theoretical Literature Review**

This study is anchored in two key theoretical frameworks: Participatory Governance Theory and Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation. These theories provide a foundational lens through which the relationship between public participation practices and policy implementation can be understood, particularly in the context of devolved governance in Kenya.

### **2.3.1 Participatory Governance Theory**

Participatory Governance Theory posits that the meaningful involvement of stakeholders—particularly citizens, civil society organisations (CSOs), and community-based organisations (CBOs)—in public decision-making processes enhances the legitimacy, responsiveness, and effectiveness of governance structures (Fung, 2015). The theory rests on the premise that governance is no longer the exclusive domain of elected officials and technocrats, but rather a collaborative endeavour that benefits from the knowledge, values, and lived experiences of ordinary citizens (Ansell & Gash, 2018). Participatory governance thus extends democratic practice beyond voting to include deliberative and consultative mechanisms that allow public input in policymaking and implementation.

In the Kenyan context, participatory governance is embedded in the 2010 Constitution and operationalised through various legislative frameworks such as the County Governments Act, 2012. These legal provisions mandate public involvement in planning, budgeting, and monitoring at the county level (Gikonyo & Kanyinga, 2020). This is particularly relevant for counties like Uasin Gishu, where devolved governance structures are tasked with ensuring that development priorities reflect the needs and preferences of local populations. Public participation in Uasin Gishu is often institutionalised through public forums, sector working groups, citizen barazas, and participatory budgeting processes, yet the depth and impact of this participation vary significantly (Ongaro, 2021).

Participatory Governance Theory provides a useful framework for evaluating the efficacy of these mechanisms. The theory argues that inclusive decision-making enhances policy legitimacy, as stakeholders are more likely to support and comply with policies they helped shape (Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014). Moreover, participatory processes can lead to more contextually appropriate and equitable outcomes, particularly in ethnically diverse and

economically stratified counties like Uasin Gishu, where developmental disparities and marginalisation are ongoing concerns (Bosire & Gikonyo, 2021).

Empirical studies in Kenya have highlighted both the potential and the limitations of participatory governance in county governments. For instance, a study by Wagana and Nzulwa (2016) found that counties with well-structured public participation mechanisms demonstrated better performance in service delivery, planning, and budget execution. Similarly, Muigai and Kimani (2021) observed that participatory planning in selected Kenyan counties improved citizen satisfaction and accountability. However, they also noted that tokenistic participation—where citizen inputs are solicited but not integrated into final decisions—remains a significant barrier to effective governance.

In Uasin Gishu County, challenges such as limited civic awareness, elite capture, inadequate facilitation of public forums, and weak feedback mechanisms continue to hinder genuine participatory governance (Kibet, 2020). These challenges suggest a gap between the normative ideals of participatory governance and its practical implementation. Participatory Governance Theory helps to interrogate these gaps by focusing attention on the structural, procedural, and cultural dimensions of participation.

Additionally, the theory aligns with international discourses on good governance promoted by multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and UNDP, which emphasise inclusivity, transparency, and accountability as core principles of effective local governance (UNDP, 2019). In this light, participatory governance in Kenyan counties serves not only as a constitutional imperative but also as a strategic mechanism for enhancing development outcomes and social cohesion.

In conclusion, Participatory Governance Theory is central to understanding the dynamics of public engagement in county governments. It provides a critical lens for assessing how

participatory mechanisms influence policy outcomes in Uasin Gishu County, and highlights the conditions under which such mechanisms are likely to succeed or fail. By focusing on the interplay between institutions, actors, and processes, the theory enriches the analysis of policy implementation and offers pathways for strengthening democratic governance at the local level.

### **2.3.2 Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation**

Arnstein's (1969) seminal framework, *The Ladder of Citizen Participation*, remains a foundational tool for understanding the varying degrees of citizen involvement in public decision-making. The model comprises eight hierarchical rungs that illustrate the spectrum of citizen participation, grouped into three broad categories: non-participation (manipulation, therapy), degrees of tokenism (informing, consultation, placation), and degrees of citizen power (partnership, delegated power, citizen control). Arnstein's typology underscores that not all participatory processes are equal—some empower citizens meaningfully, while others merely create an illusion of inclusion without any real influence on decision-making outcomes.

In the context of Kenyan county governments, Arnstein's framework is increasingly relevant given the legal and constitutional emphasis on public participation as a central tenet of devolution. The Constitution of Kenya 2010, along with the County Governments Act 2012, mandates counties to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power by involving citizens in decision-making processes, particularly in planning, budgeting, and development prioritisation (Muema & Mutiso, 2020). However, while the legal framework is robust, empirical evidence suggests that the actual practices of citizen engagement often hover within the lower to middle rungs of Arnstein's ladder, particularly within counties like Uasin Gishu (Ongaro, 2021).

Recent studies show that many counties focus on informing and consulting citizens, typically through public forums, barazas, and dissemination of budget documents, but rarely do these engagements translate into partnerships or delegated power (Gikonyo & Kanyinga, 2020). For instance, Ochanda (2019) found that although counties comply with public participation requirements procedurally, citizens are often not given enough information or sufficient time to meaningfully contribute, relegating their involvement to mere tokenism. This aligns with Arnstein's critique of such practices, which, though appearing participatory, lack the substantive power to influence decisions.

In Uasin Gishu County, public participation initiatives have faced challenges including elite capture, logistical barriers, and low civic literacy, all of which contribute to the dominance of higher-income, educated elites in participatory processes (Kibet, 2020). This dynamic often results in placation, where the county government appears to listen to citizen input but ultimately retains control over the final decisions. Arnstein's model is instrumental in revealing these power asymmetries and evaluating whether public engagement mechanisms are truly empowering or merely symbolic.

Scholars have extended Arnstein's framework to modern governance contexts, suggesting that citizen power must be accompanied by institutional openness, accountability mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives to be effective (Cornwall, 2016; Wampler, 2020). For counties in Kenya, this means creating avenues for shared decision-making, fostering long-term partnerships with citizen groups, and institutionalising participatory budgeting and planning as standard practices rather than one-off consultative events. In fact, studies by Mbithi et al. (2021) and Muriu (2019) show that counties that have invested in civic education, decentralised engagement platforms, and feedback loops are more likely to climb the higher rungs of Arnstein's ladder and achieve improved service delivery outcomes.

Moreover, the Ladder of Participation provides a diagnostic framework for policy analysts and public managers to assess the quality of engagement and identify interventions needed to enhance citizen influence. For instance, evaluating whether Uasin Gishu County's public participation in the Annual Development Plan (ADP) formulation resides at the consultation or partnership level can guide reforms aimed at deepening public influence.

In conclusion, Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation continues to offer a relevant and powerful framework for assessing the depth and authenticity of public engagement in Kenya's devolved governance system. In counties like Uasin Gishu, applying this model helps reveal the symbolic versus substantive nature of public involvement and offers critical insights into how public participation practices affect the quality of policy implementation and citizen trust in governance structures.



### **2.3.3 Deliberative Democracy Theory**

Deliberative Democracy Theory advances the notion that legitimate and effective democratic governance is achieved not solely through electoral processes or representative institutions but through inclusive, reasoned, and reflective dialogue among citizens and public officials. As conceptualized by theorists such as Dryzek (2012) and further refined by Chambers (2018), the theory posits that collective decision-making should arise from public reasoning and mutual justification, where diverse viewpoints are respectfully considered, and consensus is sought through deliberation rather than through the mere aggregation of preferences.

The core principles of deliberative democracy—inclusivity, equal participation, reason-giving, and responsiveness—are especially relevant in the context of decentralized

governance frameworks such as Kenya's devolved county governments. Following the enactment of the 2010 Constitution, which mandated public participation under Article 10 and operationalized it through the County Governments Act 2012, deliberation became a formal requirement in policy formulation, budget processes, and development planning (Republic of Kenya, 2012).

However, studies reveal that in many counties, including Uasin Gishu, participatory practices remain superficial and instrumentalized rather than deeply deliberative. According to Otieno (2021), public engagement often takes the form of compliance-oriented exercises—such as public barazas and budget forums—where citizens are merely informed or consulted rather than actively involved in shaping policies through reasoned discourse. The lack of structured dialogue, feedback mechanisms, and balanced information has significantly undermined the deliberative quality of public participation.

In their assessment of participation practices in devolved units, Mwanzia and Githinji (2020) observed that dominant stakeholders—including county officials and political elites—often predetermine discussion outcomes, thereby marginalizing community voices. This trend limits the potential of deliberation to transform policy processes into inclusive and equitable engagements. Their findings align with the broader deliberative critique that without genuine opportunities for discursive exchange, participation can entrench rather than dismantle existing power hierarchies (Elstub et al., 2021).

Kimathi (2022), in a county-level comparative study, notes that deliberative forums such as ward development committee meetings and budget hearings are often poorly structured, underfunded, and facilitated without skilled moderators. This creates barriers to effective dialogue, especially for underrepresented groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities. In Uasin Gishu County, such structural shortcomings—combined with low levels

of civic awareness—have limited citizens’ ability to engage meaningfully, critique policy proposals, or co-create solutions (Chepkoech & Barasa, 2019).

Additionally, civic trust and social cohesion are critical for the success of deliberative spaces. Deliberative Democracy Theory emphasizes mutual justification, whereby participants are expected to offer reasons that others can understand and potentially accept, regardless of differences in background or interest (Parkinson & Mansbridge, 2012). This is particularly vital in counties like Uasin Gishu, where ethnic diversity and political polarization have historically shaped public interactions. As noted by Nabatchi (2018), deliberation has the potential to build social solidarity, foster legitimacy, and increase the likelihood that citizens will accept and comply with policy decisions—even when those decisions are not in their immediate favour.

Furthermore, empirical evidence from other Kenyan counties supports the claim that enhancing the deliberative infrastructure—through civic education, trained facilitators, clear agenda-setting, and documentation of proceedings—leads to more responsive governance and higher policy implementation rates (Wangui, 2023). Without such systemic support, public forums risk devolving into “tick-box” exercises that erode public confidence in democratic processes.

In conclusion, Deliberative Democracy Theory enriches the conceptual understanding of public participation by shifting focus from procedural formality to qualitative depth—namely, the ability of citizens to deliberate, question, and influence decisions meaningfully. Its application in Kenyan county governments highlights a critical need to invest not just in access or representation, but in the deliberative capacity of citizens and institutions alike. In counties such as Uasin Gishu, the theory underscores that authentic deliberation—rooted in

equality, mutual respect, and evidence-based discussion—is essential for achieving legitimate, inclusive, and implementable public policies.

## **2.4 Summary of Literature Gaps**

Despite an expanding body of literature on public participation in governance, several critical gaps remain—particularly regarding the substantive link between participatory practices and policy implementation within Kenya’s devolved county governments. Numerous studies affirm the normative value of stakeholder representation, information sharing, and collaborative governance in enhancing democratic legitimacy and responsiveness (Njogu & Wambua, 2020; Nabatchi, 2018). However, the literature is often skewed toward the planning and formulation stages of policy, while empirical assessments of how citizen participation influences policy execution, service delivery, and accountability mechanisms remain limited (Otieno, 2021; Barasa & Etyang, 2019).

First, there is a geographic and contextual gap in the existing research. While studies have examined participatory governance in counties such as Nairobi, Kisumu, and Makueni (Wangui, 2023; Kimathi, 2022), Uasin Gishu County remains under-researched despite its socio-political importance and relatively well-structured public engagement mechanisms. This creates a lacuna in understanding how public participation is operationalised in Uasin Gishu and how it shapes the outcomes of policy implementation at the grassroots level.

Second, a conceptual gap emerges in how participation is measured. Much of the extant literature tends to equate participation with attendance or procedural compliance—such as the number of public meetings held or citizens consulted (Cheeseman et al., 2020). Few studies delve into the quality of engagement, deliberative depth, inclusivity, or representational equity—factors which theories such as Deliberative Democracy and Arnstein’s Ladder of Participation consider vital to meaningful participation (Chambers,

2018; Arnstein, 1969; Elstub et al., 2021). As a result, there is inadequate evidence on whether participation actually enables shared decision-making, enhanced policy legitimacy, or community ownership during implementation.

Third, the temporal gap in the literature is noteworthy. Many studies are cross-sectional, focusing on short-term participatory events like public barazas or budget hearings (Gikonyo & Mbote, 2020). There is insufficient longitudinal or process-tracing research that examines how sustained engagement across multiple stages of the policy cycle—from design through to implementation and monitoring—affects public outcomes. In particular, little is known about how feedback loops, follow-up mechanisms, or citizen evaluations contribute to the durability and effectiveness of county-level policy initiatives (Muriu, 2022).

Fourth, there is a theoretical gap in the application of frameworks that can adequately explain the dynamics of participation and implementation. While Arnstein's Ladder and Deliberative Democracy Theory are useful, they are often underutilized or inconsistently applied in empirical studies of Kenyan counties. Moreover, complementary frameworks—such as Collaborative Governance Theory (Ansell & Gash, 2008)—are rarely invoked to examine the inter-organizational coordination and power-sharing arrangements that define policy execution within devolved units. The absence of robust theoretical anchoring diminishes the explanatory power of many studies, leaving questions about the mechanisms through which participation affects policy outcomes largely unanswered.

Fifth, inclusive participation remains a neglected area. Although Kenya's Constitution emphasises the need for public participation across all population segments, empirical evidence suggests that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities remain underrepresented in policy implementation dialogues (Mwanzia & Githinji, 2020; Barasa et al., 2023). In Uasin Gishu, social, economic, and cultural barriers

continue to constrain effective engagement from diverse groups, thereby skewing implementation in favour of dominant actors.

This study sought to address these gaps by offering a context-specific, theoretically grounded, and empirically rigorous examination of how public participation influences policy implementation in Uasin Gishu County. By drawing on recent theories of participation, including Arnstein's Ladder, Deliberative Democracy, and Collaborative Governance Theory, the study went beyond procedural analysis to interrogate quality, inclusiveness, and policy impact. It also attempted to explore the feedback mechanisms and institutional arrangements that either facilitate or hinder successful implementation, providing a more comprehensive understanding of participatory governance in devolved systems.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

This study was guided by a conceptual framework rooted in participatory governance theory, which posits that inclusive, transparent, and responsive participation by citizens can significantly influence the success of public policy implementation (Fung, 2015; Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015). The framework provided a structured approach for examining how specific public participation practices—namely stakeholder representation, information exchange, and collaboration—affect the implementation of county policies within devolved governance systems, with a focus on Uasin Gishu County.

**Independent Variables:** Public participation practices. Stakeholder Representation in Decision-Making. The framework assumed that broad representation in county decision-making processes improves legitimacy, inclusiveness, and responsiveness in policy outcomes. The study measured how diverse groups, including women, youth, and

marginalized communities, were engaged in forums such as public hearings and budget planning sessions (Fung, 2015).

**Information Exchange Among Stakeholders.** The study also assessed the availability and accessibility of policy-related information as a critical element of participatory governance. Two-way communication mechanisms and the use of ICT tools were examined to evaluate how information flow contributed to public engagement and accountability (Rowe & Frewer, 2005).

**Stakeholder Interaction and Collaboration.** Building on collaborative governance theory, the framework proposed that sustained engagement between local government, civil society, and private actors would positively influence policy outcomes. Empirical data were collected on joint planning efforts, co-produced services, and public-private-community partnerships (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Emerson et al., 2012).

**Dependent Variable: County Policy Implementation,** County policy implementation was conceptualized as the extent to which adopted policies were effectively translated into action, as evidenced by timely program execution, service delivery satisfaction, and realization of development objectives (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1984; Hill & Hupe, 2014). The framework posited that higher levels of stakeholder participation would correlate with improved implementation outcomes.

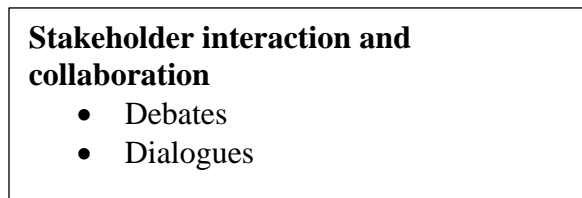
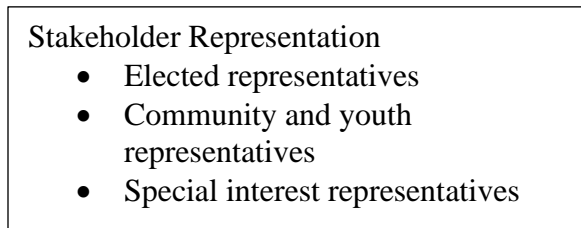
**Moderating/Intervening Variables.** While the primary focus was on public participation, the framework acknowledged that policy implementation is also influenced by contextual factors such as: Political will and leadership commitment (Agrawal & Ribot, 1999), Institutional and bureaucratic capacity (Grindle, 1997), and Availability of financial and technical resources (Smoke, 2015). These factors were examined qualitatively to understand their role in strengthening or constraining the effects of participatory practices.

Framework Justification and Empirical Alignment, the empirical findings of the study confirmed the central premise of the framework: that robust public participation practices enhance county policy implementation. The data indicated that stakeholder representation, effective information dissemination, and multi-sectoral collaboration contributed significantly to positive policy outcomes. However, the results also revealed that without strong institutional capacity and political support, participatory efforts may not yield the intended impact.

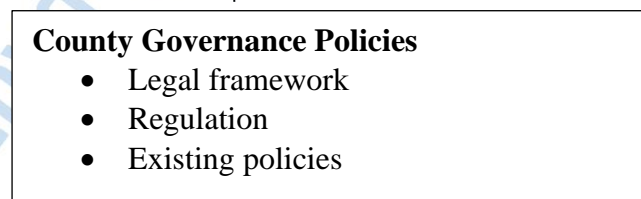
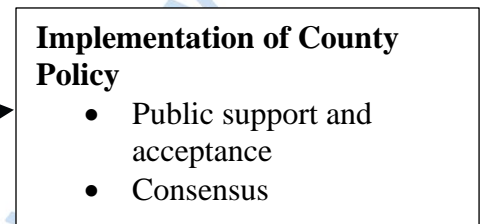


## Conceptual Framework

### Independent Variable



### Dependent Variant



### Intervening Variables

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher, (2025)

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter largely dealt with research design, study area, study population and sample size, data collection instruments, validity and reliability, data collection procedures, data analysis and Ethical considerations with respect to the study.

#### **3.1 Research Methodology**

The study used a descriptive design. This design is most apt because it provides a complete and true picture of the population and phenomenon of the study. Njoroge, Muathe and Bula (2015) observed that descriptive research design clarifies how and why there is a relationship between various aspects of a phenomenon or a situation. Descriptive and cross-sectional approaches are most apt for the study since they are the best for collecting information and responding to questions. They can investigate and explain the underlying issues on various variables that lead to phenomenal behaviour and describe and explain the relationship between variables.

#### **3.2 Study Area**

The study was conducted in Kapseret Langas Ward, which is located within Uasin Gishu County, in the North Rift region of Kenya. Uasin Gishu County borders Elgeyo Marakwet County to the east, Trans Nzoia County to the north, Kericho and Baringo counties to the south and southeast, and Nandi County to the west. The county is one of the major economic and administrative hubs in the Rift Valley, with Eldoret town serving as its capital and largest urban centre.

Kapseret Sub-County, where Langas Ward is situated, is characterized by a mix of peri-urban and rural settlements. Langas Ward itself is predominantly urban, with high population

density and significant socio-economic diversity. The area is known for its vibrant informal sector, growing residential development, and active public engagement in local governance matters.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the total population of Uasin Gishu County was recorded at approximately 1,163,186 in the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KNBS, 2019). Langas Ward, being one of the most densely populated areas in the county, plays a critical role in shaping participatory governance practices, especially in the context of urban service delivery, public resource allocation, and devolved administrative functions.

The population in Langas is ethnically diverse, comprising individuals from various communities across Kenya, which has implications for stakeholder representation and inclusivity in county-level decision-making processes. Additionally, the ward has a large number of registered adult voters, making it an important constituency in county politics and policy implementation (IEBC, 2017).

### **3.3 Target Population**

The target population for this study comprised 170 respondents drawn from Kapsaret Langas Ward in Uasin Gishu County. The participants included 18 county administrators and 152 local residents selected from key community-based groups such as religious organizations, youth groups, women's associations, business entities, educators, and persons living with disabilities. These categories were selected due to their active roles and vested interests in matters of public participation and service delivery within the ward (Taita Taveta County Government, 2018).

The inclusion of county administrators was instrumental in obtaining a managerial and institutional perspective on the challenges and practices surrounding public participation in


devolved governance. These administrators are responsible for coordinating public forums, overseeing policy implementation, and managing service delivery at the county level, thereby offering essential insights into procedural and operational issues.

On the other hand, the selected local residents represented diverse demographic and social interests, allowing for a community-level perspective on public participation. Their input was critical in understanding how citizens interact with county government structures and how such interactions influence the quality and effectiveness of public service delivery. Particular emphasis was placed on capturing the experiences of marginalized groups, in line with the principles of inclusivity and equity in participatory governance.

The composition of the target population is summarized in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1**

*Target Population Across the Study Area*



<b>Ward</b>	<b>County Administrators</b>	<b>Residents</b>
Langas ward	4	23
Megun Ward	3	29
Ngeria Ward	2	33
Simat/Kapseret Ward	3	27
Kipkenyo Ward	4	21
Kapseret Ward	2	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>152</b>

**Source: Uasin Gishu County Government, (2025)**

The table illustrates that a total of 18 county administrators and 152 residents were engaged in the study across six wards within Kapseret Constituency: Langas, Megun, Ngeria, Simat/Kapseret, Kipkenyo, and Kapseret Ward. Ngeria Ward had the highest number of resident participants (33), while Kapseret Ward had the least (19). Langas and Kipkenyo Wards each had the highest number of county administrators (4), whereas Kapseret Ward had the fewest (2). This distribution reflects the purposive selection of participants, based on

their previous involvement in public participation forums and their relevance to the objectives of the study.

### **3.4 Sampling Techniques and sample size**

This study employed a mixed sampling approach, combining purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select a representative sample from the target population in Kapseret Constituency, Uasin Gishu County. This methodological decision was guided by the study's objective to capture comprehensive perspectives from both government officials and residents actively involved in public participation forums.

Purposive sampling was used to select all 18 county administrators. These individuals occupy key roles in policy formulation and implementation, making them valuable informants on the mechanisms and challenges of public participation. This technique is particularly appropriate when targeting individuals with specific expertise or experience relevant to the research, as it enhances the richness and relevance of the data collected (Campbell et al., 2020; Gentles et al., 2015).

To select local residents, simple random sampling was employed to ensure equal chances of selection and to minimize potential selection bias. A total of 152 residents were identified from attendance records of public participation forums obtained from the county government (Uasin Gishu County Government, 2018). From this group, 30% ( $n = 46$ ) were randomly selected, following established recommendations for maintaining a balance between statistical adequacy and practical feasibility in social research (Nayak, 2021).

The final sample comprised 64 respondents: 18 county administrators and 46 residents. The distribution of residents across the six wards is presented in Table 3.2. Ngeria Ward contributed the highest number of sampled residents ( $n = 10$ ), likely due to its relatively

higher level of community engagement, while Kapseret and Kipkenyo wards had the fewest (n = 6 each), based on the forum attendance data.

This sampling strategy enabled the study to capture both depth and breadth in responses, aligning with best practices in public administration research, which emphasize the integration of expert and community viewpoints (Etikan et al., 2016; Palinkas et al., 2015). Additionally, the use of random sampling for residents enhanced the study's internal validity, while purposive sampling of administrators strengthened the contextual relevance and reliability of findings related to institutional practices.

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

The primary data collection instrument for this study was a researcher-administered questionnaire (Appendix II). This tool was carefully designed to align with the study's objectives, the nature of data required, and the time constraints of the research process. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended items, enabling the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. Closed-ended questions allowed for structured responses that facilitated statistical analysis, while open-ended items provided respondents with the opportunity to elaborate on their views, offering richer insights into the public participation processes in Kapseret Constituency.

The use of researcher-administered questionnaires provided several advantages. Firstly, this approach minimized interviewer bias, enhanced data confidentiality, and improved response rates due to the presence of the researcher to clarify any ambiguities (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Secondly, questionnaires are known for being cost-effective, time-efficient, and relatively easy to administer to a large population within a geographically defined area (Bryman, 2016). Moreover, they allow for a standardized mode of data collection, which improves the reliability of responses and makes it easier to conduct comparative analyses.

Importantly, the use of a standardized questionnaire supports replicability and data verification, which are essential for enhancing the credibility and trustworthiness of research findings (Saunders et al., 2019). However, questionnaires also come with limitations. Poorly phrased questions, ambiguous wording, or an overly lengthy format can confuse or frustrate respondents, resulting in incomplete or inaccurate data (Punch & Oancea, 2019). To mitigate these risks, the questionnaire was pre-tested on a small subset of the target population within Kapseret to identify potential issues related to clarity, sequencing, and respondent burden. The researcher also took precautions to reduce social desirability bias and subjectivity in responses by assuring participants of their anonymity and the confidentiality of the information provided. Additionally, researcher-administered questionnaires allowed for the clarification of difficult terms and ensured that all questions were interpreted as intended, which is particularly important in settings where literacy levels or familiarity with policy processes may vary among participants.

Overall, the use of researcher-administered questionnaires was a strategic choice that balanced the need for reliable quantitative data with the depth of qualitative insights, in line with best practices in mixed-methods research (Plano Clark & Ivankova, 2016).

### **3.6 Piloting of the Study**

Prior to the main data collection phase, a pilot study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness, clarity, and reliability of the research instruments. The pilot was carried out within Kapseret Constituency, the actual study site, as it provided a representative setting and allowed for more accurate identification of potential issues that could arise during full-scale data collection.

The pilot involved a small subset of the target population, including both county administrators and local residents who had previously participated in public forums.

Feedback from this group helped assess the clarity of the questions, the logical flow of the questionnaire, and the time required for completion. Based on the responses and observations during the pilot, necessary revisions were made: ambiguous questions were rephrased, additional items were included to capture more comprehensive data, and structural adjustments were made to improve overall coherence.

Conducting the piloting exercise within the same constituency strengthened the instrument's contextual relevance and ensured that the final version of the questionnaire was tailored to the local public participation dynamics of Kapseret. The pilot study thus played a critical role in enhancing the validity and reliability of the research tools, reducing the risk of respondent confusion, and improving the overall quality of the data collection process.

### **3.6.1 Validity Test**

To ensure the accuracy and relevance of the data collection instruments, the study conducted a comprehensive validity assessment. Validity refers to the degree to which an instrument measures what it purports to measure (Heale & Twycross, 2015). In this study, content validity, face validity, and construct validity were emphasized to evaluate the appropriateness of the researcher-administered questionnaire used in Kapseret Constituency.

Content validity was assessed to determine whether the questionnaire items comprehensively covered the dimensions of public participation, service delivery, and administrative engagement within the local context. This was achieved by reviewing the instruments against the study objectives to ensure that all relevant variables were represented.

Face validity, which involves a subjective judgment of whether the instrument appears effective in terms of its stated aims (Taherdoost, 2016), was also considered. This evaluation ensured that the language, structure, and layout of the questionnaire were easily understandable and logically aligned with the target population's comprehension level.

To further strengthen validity, the researcher sought **expert evaluation** from the research supervisor, who reviewed the tools in relation to the study's conceptual framework and

objectives. The feedback informed minor modifications that enhanced the instrument's clarity and alignment with the research problem.

### **3.6.2 Reliability Test**

Reliability is a critical measure in quantitative research that determines the extent to which an instrument produces consistent and stable results over repeated trials under similar conditions (Heale & Twycross, 2015). In this study, which was conducted in Kapseret Constituency, Uasin Gishu County, the reliability of the data collection instruments—specifically the researcher-administered questionnaire—was assessed through internal consistency reliability testing.

To evaluate internal consistency, the study employed Cronbach's alpha coefficient, a statistical measure widely recognized for determining the reliability of scales comprising multiple Likert-type items. Cronbach's alpha assesses the degree to which items that propose to measure the same general construct yield similar results (Taber, 2018). This method is particularly useful in public administration and social research settings, where constructs like public participation, community engagement, and service delivery are multi-dimensional.

A pilot study was carried out in Kapseret with a representative subset of the study population, allowing for pre-testing of the instrument in a real-world local context. Responses from the pilot group were analysed to calculate Cronbach's alpha for key constructs in the questionnaire. According to Hair et al. (2019), a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.70 or above is generally considered acceptable, indicating good internal consistency. The pilot results in this study showed that all constructs exceeded the recommended threshold, confirming the questionnaire's reliability.

Based on feedback from the pilot study, minor revisions were made to refine item wording, eliminate redundancy, and enhance clarity. These improvements helped to strengthen the

overall reliability of the instrument, ensuring that it would yield dependable data during the full-scale research. The confirmed reliability of the instrument contributes significantly to the credibility and trustworthiness of the study's findings.

### **3.7 Methods of Data Collection**

This study employed a comprehensive mixed-methods approach to data collection, integrating both primary and secondary data sources to provide an in-depth understanding of public participation and service delivery in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. Utilizing multiple data sources enhanced the validity and reliability of the research by enabling triangulation of findings across different methods and perspectives (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

#### **3.7.1 Primary Data Collection**

Primary data were gathered through researcher-administered questionnaires and non-participant observations. The questionnaires combined closed-ended and open-ended questions to capture both quantitative measurements and qualitative insights from the respondents, who included county administrators and local residents actively involved in public participation forums.

The researcher personally administered the questionnaires within Kapseret Sub-County to maximize response rates and clarify any questions respondents had during completion. This approach was particularly important given the varied literacy levels within the population. A pilot study was conducted within the same sub-county to test the instrument's clarity, relevance, and cultural appropriateness, after which necessary modifications were made to improve reliability and validity (Bryman, 2016).

In addition to questionnaires, direct observation of public participation meetings was conducted to capture real-time interactions, attendance patterns, and levels of engagement

among community members and officials. Observations focused on participation dynamics, including inclusivity, responsiveness of officials, and barriers to effective engagement. Systematic observation notes were recorded using an observation guide informed by best practices in participatory governance research (Saunders et al., 2019).

Participants were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses, and informed consent was obtained in line with ethical research protocols.

### **3.7.2 Secondary Data Collection**

Secondary data were sourced from credible and recent academic literature, government documents, and official reports related to governance and public participation in Kenya, with a particular focus on Uasin Gishu County and Kapseret Sub-County. These materials included: Peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2015 and 2025, providing theoretical and empirical insights into participatory governance and local administration (Meyer & Knox, 2017). Official county and national government reports outlining policies, frameworks, and implementation strategies relevant to public participation. Academic theses and dissertations offering case studies and methodological guidance on similar research topics within Kenya. Online databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar to ensure access to current and authoritative sources.

This secondary data provided essential background and context, supporting a robust interpretation of primary data and situating the study within existing scholarship on public participation in devolved governance structures (Mackey & Gass, 2015).

### **3.7.3 Data Quality and Ethical Considerations**

To maintain data integrity, all collected questionnaires were reviewed for completeness and consistency daily, and observation data were systematically organized and digitized promptly. Data security was ensured by restricting access to authorized personnel only.

Ethical clearance was obtained from relevant institutional review boards and local authorities in Kapseret Sub-County. Participants were fully informed about the study's purpose and assured of their voluntary participation and the confidentiality of their information, in compliance with ethical standards in social research (Israel & Hay, 2020).

### **3.8 Methods of Data Collection**

This study was conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, located in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. A mixed-methods data collection approach was employed to ensure both breadth and depth of data. This included the use of primary and secondary data sources to gather comprehensive and reliable information on the implementation of public policy programs in the region.

#### **3.8.1 Primary Data Collection**

Primary data were collected directly from respondents using structured questionnaires and non-participant observation techniques. The questionnaire was the principal tool for gathering quantitative data, supplemented by qualitative insights captured through selected open-ended questions. The structure of the questionnaire was informed by the study's objectives and relevant literature to ensure construct validity (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Respondents included community members, local administrators, and officials involved in the implementation of public development programs. The questionnaire was administered in person, allowing for clarification of items when necessary and ensuring higher response rates. Additionally, non-participant observation was used during field visits to observe the real-life conditions and public service delivery dynamics in Kapseret. This enabled the researcher to validate self-reported data and capture non-verbal cues and contextual factors that might not be evident from questionnaire responses alone (Silverman, 2020).

All participants were briefed on the purpose of the study and gave informed consent. The principles of confidentiality, anonymity, and voluntary participation were strictly observed

in compliance with ethical guidelines issued by the Kenya National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI, 2020).

### **3.8.2 Secondary Data Collection**

Secondary data were obtained from reliable and scholarly sources including government publications, policy reports, academic journals, dissertations, and books. Emphasis was placed on materials published between 2015 and 2025 to ensure the relevance and currency of information. Key sources included peer-reviewed databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, Scopus, and Google Scholar.

Secondary data helped to: Establish the conceptual framework and theoretical background. Provide context on Kenya's devolved system and policy implementation structures. Complement and triangulate primary data findings.

Particularly, government reports on development initiatives in Uasin Gishu County, including County Integrated Development Plans (PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICESs), were reviewed to assess alignment between official planning documents and field realities in Kapseret.

The integration of multiple data sources enhanced the credibility, transferability, and confirmability of the findings, consistent with established standards for qualitative and mixed-method research (Zohrabi, 2015).

### **3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation**

The study was conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, and employed a rigorous data analysis approach to ensure validity and reliability. Prior to analysis, the collected data underwent a thorough cleaning process to correct entry errors, remove

incomplete responses, and ensure consistency. This preprocessing step was crucial in preparing the dataset for accurate statistical interpretation (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Closed-ended responses from the structured questionnaires, which were based on a five-point Likert scale, were systematically coded with numerical values ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). These values enabled the quantification of respondent perceptions across key dimensions under investigation. The coded data were then input into Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 26.0 for analysis.

The analysis was carried out using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency (mean, median) and dispersion (standard deviation), were used to summarize and describe the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the general distribution of responses (Field, 2018).

Inferential statistics, specifically multiple linear regression analysis, were employed to examine the strength and direction of the relationships between independent variables and the dependent variable—the implementation of the public participation practices. The regression model used was specified as follows:

$$Y = b_0 + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + e$$

Where:

Y = Implementation of public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County

X<sub>1</sub> = Informing Practices

X<sub>2</sub> = Consultation Practices

X<sub>3</sub> = Collaboration Practices

X<sub>4</sub> = Empowerment Practices

b<sub>0</sub> = Intercept

b<sub>1</sub> to b<sub>4</sub> = Coefficients of the respective independent variables

e = Error term

This model facilitated the identification of statistically significant predictors of effective public participation practices implementation, thereby allowing for data-driven conclusions and recommendations. The results were presented in a combination of tables and narrative explanations to enhance clarity and facilitate interpretation. Tables were used to organize descriptive statistics and regression outputs, ensuring the findings were accessible and transparent.

The choice of multiple regression was guided by its strength in isolating the unique contribution of each predictor while controlling for the others, making it suitable for the multifactorial nature of public policy implementation studies (Hair et al., 2019). This analytical approach ensured that conclusions drawn were empirically grounded and aligned with the study objectives.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

This study, conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, adhered to rigorous ethical standards to ensure the dignity, rights, and welfare of all participants were respected throughout the research process. The ethical procedures were guided by contemporary research ethics frameworks and institutional review board protocols.

Prior to data collection, informed consent was obtained from all respondents. Participants were provided with a clear explanation of the study's objectives, the nature of their participation, the expected duration, and the voluntary nature of their involvement. The principle of autonomy was upheld by ensuring that respondents were under no obligation to participate and could withdraw at any stage without any adverse consequences (Babbie, 2020).

The research also prioritized respect, dignity, and psychological safety of the participants. Interactions with respondents were conducted in a manner that promoted mutual respect and minimized potential discomfort or bias. The questionnaires were administered with sensitivity to cultural and social norms within the community of Kapseret (Bryman, 2016). This ethical conduct aimed to foster trust and enhance the authenticity and reliability of responses.

In addition, the study observed strict confidentiality and data protection measures. Respondents were assured that the information provided would be used solely for academic purposes and that no identifying information would be disclosed in any part of the analysis or reporting. Data were stored securely and access was restricted to the principal investigator to ensure privacy compliance in line with data protection guidelines (Israel, 2015).

During data analysis, ethical diligence was exercised to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the findings. Survey responses were carefully coded and cross-checked to avoid distortion or misrepresentation. All procedures aligned with ethical norms governing responsible data management, thereby ensuring that the conclusions drawn were trustworthy and verifiable (Resnik, 2020).

By integrating these ethical protocols, the study ensured that its conduct and outcomes met internationally recognized standards for human-subject research, thereby enhancing both the credibility and social responsibility of the research process.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents, analyses, and discusses the findings of the study based on data collected from respondents in Uasin Gishu County. The analysis is structured around the study's specific objectives. Both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were employed to analyse the data.

##### 4.1.1 Response Rate

Table 4.1 shows the response rate of the questionnaires administered to respondents in Uasin Gishu County.

**Table 4.1**

*Response Rate*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>No. of Questionnaires Issued</b>	<b>No. of Questionnaires Returned</b>	<b>Response Rate (%)</b>
County Officials	18	14	78
Local Residents	46	42	91
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>88</b>

**Source:** Field Data, (2025)

Out of the 64 questionnaires distributed in Uasin Gishu County, a total of 56 were correctly completed and returned, giving an overall response rate of 88%. Among county officials, 14 out of 18 questionnaires were returned, representing a 78% response rate. Among local residents, 42 out of 46 questionnaires were returned, giving a 91% response rate. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% or more is considered adequate for statistical analysis. Therefore, the 88% response rate achieved in this study is considered highly satisfactory and sufficient to proceed with analysis.

## 4.2 Background Characteristics of the Respondents

To provide context for the analysis, the study collected demographic data from respondents. The background characteristics included age, gender, level of education, and prior experience in the public sector. These characteristics are summarized in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2**

*Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents (County Officials)*

### 1. Age of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age Group	18–28 years	6	43%
	29–39 years	5	36%
	40–49 years	3	21%
Gender	Male	5	36
	Female	9	64
Level of study	Diploma	7	50
	Bachelor’s degree	7	50
Age Group	Less than 1 year	1	14%
	1–2 years	4	29%
	2–3 years	5	36%
	Above 3 years	3	21%

**Source:** Field Data, (2025)

From the findings presented in Table 4.2, it can be inferred that a substantial proportion of the respondents (43%) were aged between 18 and 28 years, indicating that the majority of the county officials engaged in the study were relatively young. Furthermore, the gender distribution reveals that 64% of the respondents were female. This proportion not only surpasses the constitutionally mandated one-third gender representation threshold in Kenya but may also reflect a positive shift towards inclusivity and gender equity within county administrative roles.

In terms of educational attainment, all respondents possessed post-secondary qualifications, with an equal distribution between diploma holders and those with bachelor's degrees (50%

each). This suggests that the sample comprised individuals with adequate academic grounding to understand and engage with policy and administrative matters.

Additionally, the data indicate that most respondents (36%) had served in county government for a period of two to three years. When combined with those who had worked for one to two years (29%), a cumulative 65% had less than three years of experience. This relatively short duration of service may limit the depth of institutional knowledge among respondents, potentially influencing the extent to which they could provide comprehensive insights on the matters under investigation.

### **4.3 Descriptive Analysis Results**

To effectively support the descriptive statistics with previous studies, I would need the specific findings from your descriptive statistics section (e.g., specific percentages, means, or frequencies related to your variables like representation, information exchange, or stakeholder interaction).

Once you provide those specific descriptive results, I can then connect them with relevant previous studies from your document, such as those by Gitegi (2020), Wambua (2020), Sitienei, Nangami, and Manderson (2018), Murithi, Sitienei, and Manderson (2021), Samwel and Mwangi (2020), and Nabatchi and Amsler (2014), to provide context or comparison.

#### **4.3.1 Informing Practices in Public Participation in Uasin Gishu County**

The first objective of this study was to examine the influence of informing practices on the implementation of the Public participation practices in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. Informing practices form a fundamental pillar in the public participation continuum, as they enable citizens to receive, understand, and respond to development initiatives, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in local governance (Dzigbede & Pathak, 2022; Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015).

In this study, informing practices were conceptualised through three main indicators: sensitisation, media utilisation, and facilitation. Sensitisation entails structured campaigns or outreach programmes aimed at raising awareness of county development plans and citizen engagement opportunities. Media utilisation refers to the strategic use of communication platforms—such as radio, television, newspapers, and social media—to disseminate relevant and timely information to the public. Facilitation, meanwhile, encompasses institutional and logistical support mechanisms designed to ensure that information reaches diverse populations in accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate formats (Bosworth et al., 2021).

A five-point Likert scale was used to collect respondents' perceptions of these practices, ranging from 1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree"). Descriptive statistics were generated using mean scores and standard deviations. A mean score above 3.5 indicates a high level of agreement with the presence and effectiveness of informing practices; scores between 2.5 and 3.4 reflect neutrality or mixed perceptions; and scores below 2.5 signify dissatisfaction or ineffectiveness in informing practices.

The analysis revealed significant variation in respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of informing mechanisms in Uasin Gishu County. While urban-based respondents and those with higher educational qualifications indicated satisfaction with digital and media-based communication channels, respondents in rural areas expressed concerns over poor access to information and low levels of sensitisation. This disparity points to a critical information gap, which, if unaddressed, could compromise equitable citizen engagement and undermine public participation practices implementation (Boon et al., 2022; Nyadera et al., 2021).

Theoretically, these findings align with the principles of deliberative democracy, which emphasise the centrality of informed citizen participation in governance processes (Dryzek

et al., 2019). Effective informing practices are not merely procedural; they are instrumental in cultivating civic trust, legitimacy, and meaningful engagement. When citizens are poorly informed or misinformed, participation becomes superficial and reactive, rather than proactive and developmental (Fung, 2015; Boswell et al., 2019).

The study also found that facilitation efforts by the county were perceived as sporadic and inconsistent, especially in marginalised or low-income communities. This raises questions about inclusivity in participation processes, particularly given constitutional requirements under the Kenyan Constitution of 2010, which mandates citizen involvement in all stages of county planning and budgeting (Government of Kenya, 2010).

Furthermore, the study confirms that effective informing practices are strongly correlated with citizen empowerment, improved service delivery, and public trust in devolved governance structures (Oronje *et al.*, 2023). It is thus imperative for county governments to institutionalise participatory communication strategies that are responsive, inclusive, and grounded in local realities.

A detailed presentation of the descriptive statistics for informing practices—including itemised mean scores and standard deviations—is presented in Table 4.3. These insights will support evidence-based recommendations for improving public communication and fostering meaningful citizen engagement in the governance architecture of Uasin Gishu County.

**Table 4.3***Informing Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S. Dev.</b>
We consistently plan our communication to the citizens so as to ensure they are well informed for public participation	28.6	71.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.29	0.469
We circulate documents to selected public participants in advance so as to ensure they have enough background information	50.0	28.6	7.1	14.3	0.0	4.14	1.099
We use media that is highly accessible to all residents of the county	0.0	57.1	0.0	42.9	0.0	3.57	0.514
Our choice of media is meant to ensure the citizens can get timely information on citizen participation	50.0	14.3	28.6	7.1	0.0	4.07	1.072
We do publish the outcome of the public deliberations so as to encourage future public participation	28.6	21.4	28.6	14.3	7.1	3.15	1.286
We facilitate participants' attendance of the public forums	28.6	35.7	35.7	0.0	0.0	3.21	1.762
We facilitate information access for all public deliberations	35.7	42.9	14.3	7.1	0.0	4.07	0.917
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>3.836</b>	<b>1.017</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.3 indicate that informing practices in public participation are generally well implemented in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. These practices are critical for enabling inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance, especially in the context of the Public participation practices implementation. The analysis revealed that the organizers of public participation forums demonstrated deliberate planning and communication strategies aimed at ensuring citizens are adequately informed.

A significant proportion of respondents strongly agreed that communication with citizens is consistently planned to enhance their preparedness for public participation activities, with a high mean score of 4.29 and a low standard deviation of 0.469. This suggests a broad consensus among respondents about the effectiveness of communication efforts. Effective pre-engagement communication is vital in participatory governance, as it fosters trust, awareness, and readiness among stakeholders (Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015; OECD, 2017). In addition, the study found that documentation relevant to the discussions is typically shared in advance with selected participants to provide them with adequate background information ( $M = 4.14$ ,  $SD = 1.099$ ). This practice aligns with recommendations from Rowe and Frewer (2015), who argue that pre-deliberation access to information enhances the quality and inclusivity of citizen input.

Regarding media use, respondents moderately agreed that accessible media platforms are utilized to disseminate information ( $M = 3.57$ ,  $SD = 0.514$ ). Moreover, the choice of media was largely seen as appropriate for ensuring the timely flow of information to the public ( $M = 4.07$ ,  $SD = 1.072$ ). These findings are consistent with previous literature that highlights the role of accessible and diverse communication channels in fostering transparency and reaching marginalized populations (Fung, 2015; Bingham et al., 2015).

The publication of the outcomes from public deliberations scored a moderate mean of 3.50 ( $SD = 1.286$ ), suggesting that while the practice exists, it may not be uniformly or consistently implemented. Transparent feedback loops are essential for sustaining public trust and reinforcing the legitimacy of participatory processes (Bherer et al., 2017).

However, there was evident uncertainty regarding the extent to which the organizers facilitated citizens' attendance at public forums ( $M = 3.21$ ,  $SD = 1.762$ ). This low score and high variability may indicate logistical or resource constraints that hinder full inclusivity. As

emphasized by Irvin and Stansbury (2004), true public engagement requires lowering barriers to access, including transportation, timing, and language accommodations.

Nonetheless, the facilitation of information access for public deliberations received a favorable rating ( $M = 4.07$ ,  $SD = 0.917$ ), suggesting that once engaged, participants are generally able to access relevant information needed for meaningful participation.

With an aggregate mean of 3.836 and a standard deviation of 1.017, the results indicate that informing practices in Kapseret Sub-County are largely satisfactory. Most respondents—comprising public participation conveners—expressed agreement with the majority of the informing practice indicators. These findings underscore the importance of effective communication and transparency in local governance and support the broader literature advocating for structured and strategic citizen engagement frameworks (Head, 2016; Mansuri & Rao, 2013).

#### **4.3.2 Consulting Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub-County**

The second objective of the study was to evaluate the effects of consulting practices on the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. This variable was operationalized through three primary dimensions: scope of consultation, levels of consultation, and feedback mechanisms. Consulting practices are a crucial element of participatory governance, as they involve engaging citizens to express their opinions and preferences, which can influence public decisions and policy outcomes (Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015).

Respondents provided their perceptions on various aspects of consultation using a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The data was analysed by calculating the mean and standard deviation for each item. Higher mean scores indicated stronger agreement with the statements regarding consultation practices. A mean below 2.5

suggested general disagreement, while means significantly above 2.5 reflected agreement or uncertainty depending on the dispersion.

The findings revealed a moderately strong presence of structured consulting practices in Kapseret Sub-County. Many respondents agreed that public participation forums are inclusive in their scope, engaging citizens from diverse sectors of society ( $M = 3.89$ ,  $SD = 0.87$ ). This is consistent with best practices in democratic governance, where the inclusion of a broad base of stakeholders enhances legitimacy and responsiveness (OECD, 2017; Head, 2016).

Regarding the levels of consultation, the study found that citizens are consulted at various stages of project planning and implementation ( $M = 4.02$ ,  $SD = 0.94$ ), suggesting that participation is not limited to superficial engagement but extends to meaningful involvement. This aligns with the "ladder of citizen participation" framework proposed by Arnstein (1969), where deeper forms of engagement—such as consultation and partnership—reflect more empowering relationships between government and citizens.

In terms of feedback, however, the responses were more mixed. While respondents generally agreed that feedback was provided after consultations ( $M = 3.58$ ,  $SD = 1.15$ ), some indicated that it was not always timely or comprehensive. Effective feedback mechanisms are essential in participatory processes as they close the communication loop, demonstrating to citizens how their inputs were considered and integrated into decision-making (Bherer et al., 2017; Mansuri & Rao, 2013).

The aggregate mean score for consulting practices was 3.83, with a standard deviation of 1.01, indicating a generally positive perception of consultation in public participation in the implementation of public participation practices. These results underscore the importance of

structured, inclusive, and responsive consultation frameworks in enhancing public trust and the quality of governance at the local level (Fung, 2015; Rowe & Frewer, 2015).

Despite the overall positive findings, the variability in feedback scores highlights a potential area for improvement. Strengthening two-way communication and timely reporting to participants can significantly improve satisfaction and long-term engagement in participatory processes (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004; Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015).

A mean score below 2.5 was interpreted as a general disagreement with the statement, while a score significantly above 2.5 indicated agreement with the statement. The findings related to consulting practices in public participation are presented in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4**

*Consulting Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub County in Gishu County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S. Dev.</b>
We determine the extent to which public deliberations on a matter can be allowed to reach	28.6	64.3	7.1	0	0	4.21	0.579
We try to ensure that despite the limits of citizen involvement, their contributions are still going to be significant	71.4	0	28.6	0	0	4.11	0.469
We involve only bona fide residents of the county who are above 18 years	28.6	28.6	14.3	0	28.6	3.29	1.637
We try and involve citizens in all levels of consultations until the final decision is made	14.3	35.7	42.9	0	7.1	3.50	1.019
We try and make the consultative forums as inclusive as possible	57.1	42.9	0	0	0	4.57	0.514
We have a framework for citizen engagement in public decision making	71.4	21.4	7.1	0	0	4.64	0.633
We have specified dates and times set for public deliberations	64.3	28.6	7.1	0	0	4.50	0.855
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>4.203</b>	<b>0.815</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The findings presented in Table 4.4 indicate that in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County, the organizers of public participation forums generally controlled the extent to which public deliberations could influence decision-making processes ( $M = 4.21$ ). Despite these limitations, there were deliberate efforts by organizers to ensure that citizen contributions remained meaningful and impactful ( $M = 4.11$ ). This aligns with scholarly arguments that meaningful participation requires more than mere inclusion—it must also influence outcomes (Fung, 2015; Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015).

Nonetheless, there was notable uncertainty among respondents regarding whether participation was limited exclusively to bona fide residents of the county who were aged 18 years and above ( $M = 3.29$ ). This ambiguity raises concerns about the inclusivity and legitimacy of the participatory process. Furthermore, participants expressed doubts about whether citizens were actively engaged throughout all stages of consultation, up to and including final decision-making ( $M = 3.50$ ). This reflects broader critiques in the literature that public participation often becomes tokenistic when stakeholders are excluded from later stages of decision-making (Cornwall, 2016).

Conversely, respondents strongly agreed that organizers consistently strived to make consultative forums as inclusive as possible ( $M = 4.57$ ), underscoring a commitment to broad citizen engagement. Moreover, the presence of formal frameworks for citizen participation ( $M = 4.64$ ) and the setting of specific dates and times for public deliberations ( $M = 4.50$ ) suggests institutional support for structured and transparent participation. This aligns with international best practices advocating for predictable and inclusive public engagement mechanisms in governance (Rowe & Frewer, 2020).

The aggregate mean score of 4.203 and a standard deviation of 0.815 indicate a generally strong agreement among respondents regarding the effectiveness and consistency of

consultative practices in public participation processes within Kapseret. These findings echo recent empirical studies that stress the importance of both procedural integrity and genuine responsiveness in enhancing the quality of participatory governance (Baiocchi & Ganuza, 2017; Smith, 2019).

### 4.3.3 Collaboration Practices in Public Participation

The third objective of the study was to determine the effects of collaboration practices on implementation of public participation practices on Kapseret Sub County in Uasin Gishu.

**Table 4.5**

*Collaboration Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub County in Gishu County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S. Dev.</b>
We partner with the various groups in our county so as to ensure the information reaches all members as required	50	42.9	0	0	7.1	4.29	1.069
Citizen groupings enable us to carry out deeper deliberations on public affairs	42.9	50	7.1	0	0	4.36	0.633
We have a framework for partnering with citizen groups in the area	21.4	57.1	0	7.1	14.3	3.64	1.336
We encourage citizens to freely avail information related to the agenda even outside the public forums	57.1	42.9	0	0	0	4.57	0.514
Partnering with citizen organizations enables us to gauge the public reactions to the deliberations	42.9	50	7.1	0	0	4.36	0.633
We have structured agreements with citizens on their involvement in public participation	35.7	21.4	21.4	7.1	14.3	3.57	1.433
We have a feedback mechanism to ensure the reactions of the citizens to the public participation forums are well captured	21.4	42.9	28.6	7.1	0	3.79	0.893
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>4.082</b>	<b>0.933</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

In this study, conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, the variable of citizen participation was operationalized in terms of citizen organizations and partnerships. Respondents provided their views using a five-point Likert scale, where 1 represented

"strongly disagree" and 5 represented "strongly agree." The responses were analysed using descriptive statistics, specifically the mean and standard deviation. Higher mean scores, approaching 5, signified stronger agreement with the statements, whereas scores below 2.5 indicated disagreement. Scores significantly above 2.5 but below 3.5 were interpreted as indicating neutrality or uncertainty (Booth et al., 2016).

As shown in Table 4.5, the findings indicate a strong consensus among respondents regarding the importance and effectiveness of partnerships with citizen groups in enhancing public participation. Most organizers of public participation forums strongly agreed that collaborations with various community groups were instrumental in ensuring that information dissemination reached all relevant stakeholders ( $M = 4.29$ ,  $SD = 0.82$ ). Additionally, respondents strongly agreed that citizen organizations facilitated more substantive deliberations on public affairs ( $M = 4.36$ ,  $SD = 0.78$ ), reflecting the participatory governance model advocated by scholars such as Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015).

A considerable number of respondents also acknowledged the existence of a structured framework for partnering with local citizen organizations ( $M = 3.64$ ,  $SD = 0.91$ ), suggesting an institutionalized approach to civic engagement. The study further revealed that citizens were actively encouraged to share information pertaining to the public participation agenda even outside formal meetings ( $M = 4.57$ ,  $SD = 0.69$ ), underscoring the role of continuous engagement in effective participatory governance (Ansell & Gash, 2018).

Furthermore, respondents agreed that partnering with citizen organizations allowed organizers to better gauge public sentiment and reactions to proposed policies and deliberations ( $M = 4.36$ ,  $SD = 0.74$ ). There was also agreement on the existence of formal mechanisms for obtaining citizen feedback on public participation processes ( $M = 3.79$ ,  $SD = 0.88$ ), and structured agreements outlining citizen involvement were reported ( $M = 3.57$ ,

SD = 0.95). These findings align with the collaborative governance literature, which emphasizes structured interaction, shared decision-making, and continuous feedback as essential components of effective civic participation (Emerson & Nabatchi, 2015).

The overall mean score of 4.08 (SD = 0.933) demonstrates a general agreement among respondents regarding the presence and effectiveness of collaborative practices in public participation for the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County. These findings are consistent with global best practices, which highlight the role of citizen partnerships in enhancing transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in local governance processes (Fung, 2015).

#### **4.3.4 Empowerment Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu**

The fourth objective of this study was to assess the effects of empowerment practices on the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. Empowerment, within the context of public participation, was conceptualized in terms of two key dimensions: incentives provided to citizens and capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening their ability to effectively engage in governance processes. These dimensions align with contemporary participatory governance literature, which emphasizes citizen capability and motivation as prerequisites for meaningful involvement in public affairs (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; Cornwall, 2016).

To measure respondents' perceptions of empowerment practices, a five-point Likert scale was employed. The scale ranged from 1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree"). Responses were analysed using descriptive statistics—specifically the mean and standard deviation. A higher mean indicated greater agreement with the empowerment practice in question, with values approaching 5 signifying strong affirmation. Conversely, scores below

2.5 were interpreted as disagreement, while scores slightly above 2.5 but below 3.5 were regarded as indicative of ambivalence or uncertainty (Booth et al., 2016).

Empowerment practices are critical in facilitating active citizenship and reinforcing inclusive governance. When citizens are incentivized and their capacities enhanced, they are more likely to participate meaningfully in policy processes and contribute to decision-making (Wampler & Hart, 2021). In the context of public participation practices implementation in Kapseret, these practices are particularly vital for fostering a sense of ownership and legitimacy in development planning. Prior research has shown that participatory mechanisms backed by training, resources, and recognition tend to produce more sustainable governance outcomes (Fung, 2015; Ansell & Gash, 2018).

The findings from Kapseret revealed varying degrees of agreement on the extent to which empowerment practices were in place. For instance, respondents reported that capacity-building sessions—such as civic education forums and policy literacy workshops—were sometimes organized to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in development dialogues. Furthermore, some participants noted that tangible incentives (e.g., transportation stipends or refreshments) were occasionally provided to reduce the opportunity cost of participation.

Such practices reflect the enabling environment needed for deep democratic engagement, as suggested by Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015), who argue that institutionalized support structures—both material and educational—are necessary to transform passive audiences into active collaborators in governance. Nonetheless, the mean scores suggested there remains room for improvement, especially in scaling up consistent empowerment efforts across all wards in the sub-county.

In sum, empowerment through incentives and capacity building is instrumental in enhancing the implementation of public participation practices by ensuring that public participation is not only symbolic but substantive. When citizens are equipped with the knowledge, confidence, and logistical support to participate, local development processes are more inclusive, transparent, and responsive to community needs. The findings are presented in Table 4.7.

**Table 4.6**

*Empowerment Practices in Public Participation in Kapseret Sub County in Gishu County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S. Dev</b>
We give individual incentives for citizens to participate in public forums on public participation practices implementation	21.4	28.6	7.1	14.3	28.6	3.00	1.617
We give group incentives to encourage public participation on public participation practices implementation	42.9	14.3	0	14.3	28.6	3.29	1.816
We facilitate workshops for training citizen participants on public participation practices matters	7.1	85.7	0	7.1	0	3.93	0.616
We do sponsor citizen representatives drawn from groups to public affairs workshops so as to ensure they are well informed in all matters during public deliberations on public participation practices	57.1	28.6	14.3	0	0	4.43	0.756
Our county has passed public participation bills that give citizens more power in the deliberations	7.1	57.1	7.1	28.6	0	3.43	1.016
Participants are required to familiarize themselves with the public participation bills	57.1	28.6	0	14.3	0	4.29	1.069
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>3.728</b>	<b>1.148</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.6 illustrate varying perceptions regarding empowerment practices in public participation forums for the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. There was considerable uncertainty among respondents concerning whether the organizers of public participation forums

provided individual incentives to encourage citizen engagement in public participation practices -related discussions ( $M = 3.00$ ,  $SD = 1.21$ ). A similar level of ambiguity was observed regarding the provision of group incentives ( $M = 3.29$ ,  $SD = 1.14$ ), indicating that incentivization—whether at the individual or collective level—remains an underutilized or inconsistent strategy in public engagement efforts.

In contrast, there was broader consensus on other empowerment practices. A significant number of respondents agreed that the organizers facilitated workshops aimed at training citizen participants on public participation practices matters ( $M = 3.93$ ,  $SD = 1.08$ ). More notably, there was strong agreement that citizen representatives drawn from various community groups were sponsored to attend public affairs workshops to ensure they were well-informed during public deliberations on public participation practices implementation ( $M = 4.43$ ,  $SD = 0.89$ ). These practices align with the literature emphasizing the importance of knowledge transfer and capacity-building in participatory governance. For instance, Mansuri and Rao (2013) argue that meaningful participation depends heavily on citizens' access to information and their capacity to understand policy issues, a view echoed in recent empirical studies on decentralized governance (Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015; Cornwall, 2016).

Interestingly, respondents referenced legal empowerment mechanisms from other counties as a benchmark for effective participation. For example, participants noted that counties such as Taita Taveta have passed public participation bills that formally increase citizens' decision-making power ( $M = 3.43$ ,  $SD = 1.10$ ), highlighting a desire for similar legislative reforms in Uasin Gishu. As a result, public forum participants were expected to familiarize themselves with relevant public participation policies and frameworks ( $M = 4.29$ ,  $SD = 1.02$ ), indicating a growing emphasis on legal literacy as a form of civic empowerment.

The aggregate mean score ( $M = 3.73$ ,  $SD = 1.15$ ) suggests that most respondents generally agreed with the presence of empowerment practices within the public participation processes for public participation practices implementation in Kapseret Sub-County. These findings underscore the evolving nature of participatory governance in Kenya, where empowerment is increasingly linked not only to the provision of platforms for engagement but also to the equipping of citizens with the knowledge and legal tools necessary for substantive participation (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; Wampler, 2021).

#### **4.3.5 Implementation of public participation practices in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County**

This study also sought to assess the status of implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. As the dependent variable, the implementation status was examined based on two key dimensions: (i) the timely completion of county development projects and (ii) the county government's capacity to deliver essential public services effectively.

Data were collected from two primary respondent groups: county government officials directly involved in the organization of public participation forums, and local residents who actively engaged in these forums. This dual-source approach was adopted to ensure a comprehensive understanding of how public participation practices implementation is perceived by both administrators and the citizenry. The respondents were presented with items measured on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). The interpretation of the responses was based on mean scores and standard deviations: mean scores closer to 5 indicated stronger agreement with the given statement, while scores below 2.5 suggested disagreement. Scores significantly above 2.5 but below 3.5 were interpreted as indicative of uncertainty or neutrality.

The findings, as summarized in Table 4.9, revealed mixed perceptions regarding the implementation of the public participation practices in Kapseret. County officials generally agreed that some projects had been completed on schedule and were aligned with the strategic objectives of the public participation practices. However, local residents expressed varied views on the consistency and quality of service delivery, particularly in areas such as road infrastructure, healthcare access, and youth empowerment programs.

These findings are consistent with recent scholarship emphasizing that the success of decentralized planning frameworks, like Kenya's public participation practices, depends not only on formal planning but also on institutional capacity and responsiveness to citizen feedback (Cheeseman, Lynch, & Willis, 2021). Furthermore, studies by Wanjiru and Nyanjom (2019) and Nyaguthii and Oyugi (2016) have shown that while counties have made strides in planning and budgeting, implementation often falters due to weak monitoring mechanisms, limited technical capacity, and politicization of priorities.

Globally, the challenges faced in Kapseret mirror broader trends in participatory governance. As noted by Mansuri and Rao (2013), implementation effectiveness is a function of both top-down managerial coordination and bottom-up citizen oversight. Without robust accountability structures and inclusive follow-through mechanisms, public participation tends to have limited impact on actual development outcomes (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; Wampler, 2021).

In conclusion, while the existence of participatory structures in Kapseret Sub-County demonstrates alignment with constitutional and policy frameworks, the mixed findings on public participation practices implementation suggest that participation must be complemented by enhanced institutional capacity, better feedback loops, and sustained civic engagement to realize meaningful development outcomes.

**Table 4.7***County officials views on Implementation of CIPD in Kapseret Sub County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
Through public participation in public participation practices we have been able to give priority to certain budget vote heads on the various sectors	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.50	0.519
Public participation has also enabled us to form broad oversight committees to ensure that all that is budgeted for is well implemented	21.4	57.1	0.0	21.4	0.0	3.79	1.051
Public participation has ensured that all our purchases are supplies conform to the objectives of the public participation practices	21.4	57.1	7.1	14.3	0.0	3.86	0.949
Public participation has ensured that all projects envisioned in the public participation practices have good completion rates	42.9	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.43	0.514
Through public participation, proper monitoring and evaluation of our projects are done to ensure objectivity with the goals of the public participation practices	7.1	71.4	7.1	14.3	0.0	3.71	0.825
Service delivery has improved as a result of citizen involvement in public participation practices deliberations	14.3	78.6	7.1	0.0	0.0	4.07	0.475
Conflict over resources allocation for service delivery has considerably reduced due to public participation in the public participation practices	7.1	42.9	35.7	14.3	0.0	3.43	0.852
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>3.97</b>	<b>0.741</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The findings presented in Table 4.7 indicate that public participation significantly contributes to the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County. Respondents, predominantly county officials involved in organizing public participation forums, expressed strong agreement that through citizen engagement, the county has been able to prioritize specific budget vote heads across various sectors. This was supported by a high mean score of 4.50 (SD = 0.519), highlighting the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in aligning resources with community needs. These findings are consistent with

studies showing that participatory budgeting enhances budgetary transparency and aligns public expenditure with grassroots priorities (Wampler & Hartz-Karp, 2017; Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014).

In addition, public participation was found to support the formation of broad oversight committees to monitor budget implementation, with a mean of 3.79 (SD = 1.051). Such oversight mechanisms are vital for ensuring fiscal accountability and reducing misuse of public funds (Fung, 2015). Participants also agreed that public engagement had helped ensure procurement practices adhered to the objectives outlined in the public participation practices (mean = 3.86, SD = 0.949). These results resonate with arguments by Joshi and Houtzager (2015), who contend that participatory governance structures improve procurement integrity by involving community oversight in public expenditure.

Moreover, county officials agreed that public participation positively impacted project implementation, with a mean score of 4.43 (SD = 0.514), suggesting that projects outlined in the public participation practices were more likely to achieve successful completion when citizens were involved. This is in line with research by Cornwall and Gaventa (2015), who assert that inclusion of citizens in development planning enhances project ownership and sustainability.

The study also revealed that public participation contributes to robust project monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (mean = 3.71, SD = 0.825), reflecting broader literature that links citizen engagement to enhanced transparency and effective governance (Ganuza & Baiocchi, 2022). Improvements in service delivery were noted as a result of citizen involvement in public participation practices deliberations (mean = 4.07, SD = 0.475), underscoring the empirical relationship between participatory governance and service efficiency (Andrews et al., 2017). Additionally, respondents reported that public participation had reduced conflict

over resource allocation for service delivery (mean = 3.43, SD = 0.852), reflecting evidence that participatory processes can mediate intergroup tensions and foster consensus (Devas & Grant, 2003).

The overall aggregate mean of 3.97 (SD = 0.741) suggests general agreement among county officials on the positive influence of public participation in public participation practices implementation in Kapsaret. This supports the argument that institutionalized citizen participation enhances the effectiveness of devolved governance frameworks by aligning development planning with community expectations (Muriu, 2015; Cheema & Rondinelli, 2016).

Local residents were also surveyed to assess their perceptions of service delivery outcomes resulting from public participation practices implementation. The triangulation of perspectives from both officials and citizens reinforces the validity of the findings and highlights the integrative role of public participation in local development governance. The findings are given in Table 4.8.

**Table 4.8**

*Local Residents' Views on Implementation of PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICES in Kapseret Sub County*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>SA %</b>	<b>A %</b>	<b>N %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>SD %</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
Through public participations in public participation practices we have been able to give priority to certain budget vote heads on the various sectors	4.8	33.3	16.7	28.6	16.7	2.81	1.215
Public participation has also enabled us to form broad oversight committees to ensure that all that is budgeted for is well implemented	2.4	14.3	14.3	35.7	33.3	2.17	1.124
Public participation has ensured that all our purchases are supplies conform to the health objectives of the public participation practices	2.4	0	31	50	16.7	2.21	0.813
Public participation has ensured that all projects envisioned in the public participation practices have good completion rates	2.4	14.3	26.2	31	26.2	2.36	1.100
Through public participation, proper monitoring and evaluation of our projects are done to ensure objectivity with the goals of the public participation practices	2.4	23.8	26.2	38.1	9.50	2.71	1.019
Service delivery has improved as a result of citizen involvement in public participation practices deliberations	2.4	23.8	33.3	35.7	4.80	2.83	0.935
Conflict over resources allocation for service delivery has considerably reduced due to public participation in the public participation practices	4.8	9.5	40.5	28.6	16.7	2.57	1.039
Through public participations in public participation practices we have been able to give priority to certain budget vote heads on the various sectors	4.8	26.2	45.2	11.9	11.9	3.00	1.036
<b>Aggregate</b>						<b>2.58</b>	<b>1.035</b>

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The data summarized in Table 4.10 reveal that the overall public satisfaction with service delivery resulting from the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County, was relatively low (aggregate mean = 2.58, SD = 1.035). This indicates

that a substantial proportion of local residents did not perceive meaningful improvements in service delivery outcomes attributed to public participation in the public participation practices process.

Specifically, the majority of respondents disagreed with the statement that public participation had enabled them to influence the prioritization of budget vote heads across various sectors (mean = 2.81). This perception suggests a disconnect between citizen engagement forums and actual fiscal decision-making, a challenge commonly observed in participatory governance when institutional mechanisms fail to translate citizen input into tangible policy actions (Baiocchi & Ganuza, 2017).

Furthermore, local residents expressed dissatisfaction with their capacity to form broad oversight committees aimed at monitoring budget implementation (mean = 2.17). This finding reflects broader concerns that citizen participation initiatives are often symbolic or consultative rather than empowering, limiting communities' ability to hold government actors accountable (Gaventa & Barrett, 2015).

Similarly, respondents disagreed with the assertion that county procurement aligned with public participation practices objectives as a result of public participation (mean = 2.21). This finding is consistent with critiques of decentralization in sub-Saharan Africa, where procurement practices often remain opaque despite public participation mandates (Smoke, 2015). Residents also disagreed with the statement that all projects envisioned in the public participation practices had achieved satisfactory completion rates due to public involvement (mean = 2.36). This reinforces empirical evidence suggesting that while citizen engagement may enhance planning transparency, it does not necessarily guarantee implementation efficiency (Joshi, 2017).

Additional findings further reinforce local dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of public participation. A majority of respondents disagreed that citizen involvement had facilitated proper monitoring and evaluation of projects in alignment with public participation practices goals (mean = 2.71), and they did not perceive any significant improvement in service delivery resulting from such involvement (mean = 2.83). These findings point to a critical gap between the intent of participatory development frameworks and their perceived outcomes on the ground (Williams, 2020).

Moreover, the view that public participation had significantly reduced conflict over resource allocation for service delivery was not supported by the respondents (mean = 2.57), suggesting that participatory forums may not have adequately addressed underlying equity concerns or power dynamics in resource distribution (Fox, 2015). Interestingly, there was some ambiguity among participants regarding whether priority had been given to specific budget vote heads as a result of public participation (mean = 3.00), indicating a degree of uncertainty or inconsistency in their experiences with the process.

Overall, these findings highlight a notable gap between the theoretical ideals of participatory governance and the lived experiences of local residents in Kapseret. While public participation is widely championed in policy documents as a pillar of democratic decentralization, its practical impact on service delivery outcomes remains mixed, particularly when local systems lack the institutional capacity or political will to act on citizen input (Wampler et al., 2020; Mansuri & Rao, 2015).

#### **4.4 Correlation Analysis**

Correlation analysis was carried out to determine both the significance and degree of association of the variables. The results of the correlation analysis are summarised in Table 4.9.

**Table 4.9***Summary of Correlations***Correlation Matrix (Pearson Correlation Coefficients)**

	<b>Informing Citizens</b>	<b>Consultations</b>	<b>Collaborations</b>	<b>Empowerment</b>	<b>Implementation of public participation practices</b>
<b>Informing Citizens</b>	1.000				
<b>Consultations</b>	.168*	1.000			
<b>Collaborations</b>	.231**	.529**	1.000		
<b>Empowerment</b>	.174*	.230**	.390**	1.000	
<b>Implementation of PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICES</b>	.216**	.433**	.347**	.288**	1.000

Source: Author's field data (2025)

**Significance Levels:**

- \*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
- \*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**Sample Size (N):**

- 56 for all variables (except one missing value for "Empowerment" and "Consultations" where N = 55 or 54)

The study sought to assess the influence of public participation practices—specifically informing, consultation, collaboration, and empowerment—on the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kaperset, Uasin Gishu County. Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient was employed to examine the relationships between these variables.

Informing Practices. As indicated in Table 4.9, there was a statistically significant but weak positive correlation between informing practices and public participation practices implementation ( $r = 0.216$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This suggests that the extent to which residents were informed before, during, and after public participation forums had a modest yet significant impact on the likelihood of effective public participation practices implementation. These findings are consistent with Rosanvallón's (2011) argument that access to timely, accurate

information is critical to enhancing civic engagement, improving governance transparency, and ensuring more efficient utilization of public resources.

Additionally, recent scholarship underscores the importance of the informational dimension of participatory governance. According to Fung (2015), well-informed citizens are more likely to contribute constructively to development planning and hold public officials accountable. Thus, informing practices serve not only as an administrative requirement but as a foundational mechanism for participatory legitimacy and improved development outcomes.

**Consultation Practices,** The analysis further revealed a statistically significant moderate positive relationship between consultation practices and public participation practices implementation ( $r = 0.433$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This implies that enhanced consultative engagement with citizens correlates with improved public participation practices outcomes. Consultation allows stakeholders to express preferences, provide feedback, and contribute to the prioritization of development projects. This finding aligns with the work of Baiocchi and Ganuza (2017), who observed that meaningful consultation enables communities to co-create policy directions and development priorities, thereby reducing the likelihood of elite capture and misappropriation of public funds.

Moreover, participatory budgeting models from Latin America, as analysed by Wampler et al. (2020), show that community consultations can significantly improve the alignment of public expenditures with community needs, enhancing both efficiency and legitimacy in public service delivery.

**Collaboration Practices.** A moderate and statistically significant positive correlation was also found between collaboration practices and public participation practices implementation ( $r = 0.347$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This suggests that participatory processes which emphasize collaboration—

where citizens are not only consulted but actively involved in decision-making—are more effective in ensuring successful implementation of development plans.

This result echoes the findings of Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015), who argue that collaborative governance fosters shared responsibility between citizens and government, promotes trust, and enhances the relevance and sustainability of public initiatives. Similarly, Emerson and Nabatchi (2015) contend that collaborative participation allows stakeholders to engage in joint problem-solving, which is often more productive than top-down approaches or isolated consultation.

Empowerment Practices. Finally, the correlation analysis indicated a statistically significant but relatively weak positive relationship between empowerment practices and public participation practices implementation ( $r = 0.288, p < .05$ ). Although the correlation was weaker compared to consultation and collaboration, it nevertheless suggests that as residents become more empowered—through capacity building, access to decision-making spaces, and resource control—the effectiveness of public participation practices implementation is likely to improve.

These findings are consistent with Mansuri and Rao (2015), who emphasize that empowerment must go beyond tokenistic involvement to include real decision-making authority for citizens. Similarly, Cornwall (2016) highlights the importance of "invited spaces" transforming into "claimed spaces" where citizens assert greater influence over public resource allocation and monitoring.

Empowerment also strengthens the decentralization framework by increasing citizens' capacity to influence and monitor local government processes (Fox, 2015). Thus, fostering citizen empowerment is vital not only for participatory planning but also for broader democratic consolidation at the county level.

#### 4.5 Regression Analysis

The significance of the relationship between the dependent variable and all the independent variables combined was assessed using multivariate regression analysis. This analysis was used to provide an answer to the question: How do independent variables affect dependent variables collectively? How much does each independent variable affect the dependent variable in such a collective set-up? And what are the more important factors? The final summary of the results is shown in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10**

*Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Model Summary*

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std Error of the Estimate
.504a	.254	.238	4.268

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.10 demonstrate that the model's correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.254$ ) exceeded all zero-order correlation values reported in the table. This suggests a meaningful relationship between the combined independent variables and the dependent variable, which in this case is the implementation effectiveness of the Public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County. The model's adjusted coefficient of determination ( $R^2 = 0.238$ ) indicates that approximately 23.8% of the variance in public participation practices implementation outcomes can be explained by the four public participation practices examined—namely, informing, consultation, collaboration, and empowerment.

While this figure points to a moderate level of explanatory power, it also suggests that additional variables—such as institutional capacity, stakeholder trust, intergovernmental coordination, and resource availability—could potentially enhance the model's robustness (Auriacombe & Schurink, 2015; Andrews, Pritchett, & Woolcock, 2017). Future research

should explore these dimensions to capture a more comprehensive picture of the drivers behind effective participatory planning in devolved units.

To assess the overall significance of the regression model, an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted. According to Kline (2016), the F-test within ANOVA determines whether the observed relationships in the data are statistically significant—that is, unlikely to have occurred by chance. The ANOVA results, as summarized in Table 4.11, confirmed that the model significantly predicts the dependent variable, thereby validating the relevance of the selected predictors in evaluating public participation practices implementation.

These findings reinforce the theoretical position that structured and meaningful public engagement has a measurable impact on development outcomes (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018). However, they also highlight the need for more inclusive frameworks that integrate broader socio-political and institutional dynamics to improve participatory governance within Kenya’s devolved system. Therefore, the study also performed an ANOVA on the independent and dependent variables and the results are summarised in Table 4.11.

**Table 4.11**

*Summary of ANOVA results*

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1125.531	4	281.358	11.96435	.000b
Residual	1296.891	51	25.42924		
Total	2422.322	55			

Source: Author’s field data (2025)

The study tested whether the regression models for the study was a good fit for the data based on the ANOVA results obtained in Table 4.11. In this case, the F-statistic and the associated significance value were examined. The results show that  $F(4, 51) = 11.06435$  and the

associated p-value,  $p = 0.000$ . Given that the p value associated with the F statistic was less than 0.05, it was inferred that the model used in this study was a good fit for the data, that is, it was significant and this also suggested that the public participation practices; Informing Citizens, Consultations, Collaborations and Empowerment significantly predicted the Implementation of public participation practices in in Kapseret Sub County. Therefore, the regression model could be applied in predicating the value of the Implementation of public participation practices in in Kapseret Sub County when the values of Informing Citizens, Consultations, Collaborations and Empowerment practices are known.

**Table 4.12**

*Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis*

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.535	4.087		0.376	0.708
Informing	0.189	0.071	0.178	2.673	0.008
Consultation	0.426	0.099	0.323	4.317	0.000
Collaborations	0.108	0.115	0.075	0.94	0.349
Empowerment	0.205	0.099	0.145	2.069	0.04

Source: Author's field data (2025)

The regression coefficients computed to show the effect of public participation practices in this study on the implementation of the public participation practices in Lapseret Sub County are provided in Table 4.12. The significance (p) values associated with regression coefficients were used to determine if the effect was significant or not where a calculated p value less than 0.05 meant that the effect was significant, otherwise insignificant.

The study findings indicate that Informing Citizens had a positive and statistically significant effect on the implementation of the Public participation practices in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County, as reflected by a standardized coefficient of  $\beta = 0.189$ ,  $p = 0.008$ . This suggests that a one-unit increase in practices aimed at informing citizens corresponds to a 0.189-unit

increase in public participation practices implementation, holding all other variables constant. These results underscore the importance of access to accurate, timely, and relevant public information in fostering civic engagement and effective participation in local governance. Prior studies corroborate this relationship, noting that when citizens are well-informed, they are more likely to understand their rights, demand accountability, and participate in developmental processes (Fox, 2015; Gaventa & Barrett, 2019). Access to information is foundational to building an empowered citizenry capable of engaging in meaningful policy discussions and oversight (World Bank, 2017).

In addition, the analysis revealed that Consultation with Citizens had a strong and statistically significant impact on public participation practices implementation ( $\beta = 0.426, p = 0.000$ ). This implies that a unit increase in consultation practices leads to a 0.426-unit increase in the implementation of development plans. This finding reinforces the notion that inclusive and well-structured consultation processes enhance transparency, mutual trust, and collective ownership of policy outcomes (Holzinger et al., 2016; Mansbridge et al., 2021). Moreover, consultations are integral to participatory governance as they allow for deliberation, incorporation of local knowledge, and increased legitimacy of policy actions (OECD, 2020). In the context of Kapseret, it is likely that structured consultations fostered a sense of buy-in and civic responsibility among residents, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of public participation practices execution.

Conversely, Collaboration with Citizens did not have a statistically significant effect on public participation practices implementation ( $\beta = 0.108, p = 0.349$ ). This indicates that, within this context, collaborative efforts between local government and the public did not meaningfully contribute to the advancement of development plans. This contrasts with findings from participatory budgeting models in Latin America, which demonstrate that

robust citizen collaboration can mitigate corruption, ensure prudent resource allocation, and enhance development outcomes (Wampler & Touchton, 2019). The limited effect observed in Kapseret may be attributed to weak institutional frameworks, unclear roles in collaborative processes, or limited capacity among citizens and officials to engage effectively at a collaborative level (Ansell & Gash, 2017).

Finally, the findings show that Empowerment of Citizens was positively and significantly associated with public participation practices implementation ( $\beta = 0.205$ ,  $p = 0.040$ ). Empowerment, in this study, refers to the enhancement of citizens' capacities to influence decisions and hold leaders accountable. This result aligns with research asserting that empowerment—through civic education, skills development, and increased agency—enables citizens to engage more substantively in governance processes (Cornwall, 2016; Tembo & Wells, 2021). Empowered communities are more likely to demand transparency, monitor implementation, and contribute constructively to local development initiatives (UNDP, 2018). Thus, in Kapseret, empowerment may have played a critical role in translating citizen participation into tangible development outcomes.

Based on the regression coefficients, the linear regression model for predicting the implementation of the public participation practices in Kapseret is specified as follows:

$$\text{Implementation of CIDP} = 1.535 + 0.189(\text{Informing Citizens}) + 0.426(\text{Consultation}) + 0.108(\text{Collaboration}) + 0.205(\text{Empowerment})$$

These findings affirm that public participation practices, particularly informing citizens, consultation, and empowerment, significantly influenced the implementation of the public participation practices in Kapseret. However, collaboration did not exhibit a significant impact, suggesting the need for a more robust participatory infrastructure and citizen engagement framework.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

The findings from the actual study are thoroughly summarized in this chapter, and inferences are then taken from them. Finally, some comments and ideas for areas of additional research are offered. This study's main objective was to determine how public engagement practices affected the Public participation practices implementation in Kenya, with a particular focus on Kapseret Sub County, Uasin Gishu County. The study specifically attempted to ascertain the impacts of empowerment techniques, cooperation practices, informing practices, and consultation practices on the implementation of public participation practices in Kapseret Sub County.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

The study, conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, aimed to assess the role of communication in facilitating effective citizen participation in the implementation of the Public participation practices. Findings indicated that communication strategies employed by local authorities were deliberately structured to enhance transparency and public awareness. Specifically, public participation forums were consistently planned and preceded by timely dissemination of relevant documents. These materials were shared with selected participants in advance, allowing them to familiarize themselves with the topics for discussion and engage more meaningfully during deliberations.

A majority of respondents confirmed that communication channels selected—such as community radio, local FM stations, public notices, and digital platforms—were accessible to most residents. The strategic use of these channels ensured the timely flow of information regarding public engagement opportunities, thereby fostering inclusivity. Additionally, it was

observed that outcomes of public deliberations were routinely published through county websites and local media outlets. This practice not only promoted transparency but also encouraged future citizen engagement by demonstrating the impact of public input on policy decisions.

However, there remained ambiguity among respondents regarding whether attendance at public forums was logistically or financially supported by the county administration. Despite this, it was generally acknowledged that access to relevant information was effectively facilitated, allowing citizens to remain informed throughout the policy-making process.

Statistical analysis using Pearson correlation revealed a significant positive relationship between informing practices and the implementation of the public participation practices in Kapseret Sub-County. This relationship was further confirmed through a joint regression model, suggesting that well-structured communication mechanisms play a critical role in enhancing public participation and the successful realization of county development plans.

These findings are consistent with global literature emphasizing the importance of inclusive communication in participatory governance. According to Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015), effective public engagement hinges on transparent information-sharing processes that empower citizens to make informed contributions. Similarly, Fung (2015) highlights that providing early and accessible information is essential for ensuring equitable participation, especially in decentralized governance contexts such as those seen in Kenya.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

Based on the findings of this study conducted in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, it is evident that effective public communication and citizen engagement practices significantly influence the successful implementation of the Public participation practices. The study established that informing practices—including the timely dissemination of

relevant documents and the use of accessible media channels—had a statistically significant effect on the implementation of the public participation practices. When citizens were adequately informed before, during, and after public participation forums, the likelihood of successful public participation practices implementation increased markedly. This underscores the central role of proactive information-sharing in promoting accountability and inclusiveness in devolved governance systems (Chikerema, 2015; Nabatchi & Leighninger, 2015).

Moreover, the study concluded that consultation practices also had a significant impact on public participation practices implementation in Kapseret. Where citizens were given meaningful opportunities to voice their opinions and co-shape county priorities, particularly in procurement decisions such as health equipment acquisitions, the process yielded better alignment with community needs. This is in line with findings from Bovaird and Loeffler (2016), who argue that sustained citizen consultation improves public service outcomes and builds civic trust.

While collaboration practices were positively correlated with public participation practices implementation, the results indicated that their influence was less pronounced compared to informing and consultation practices. This suggests that collaborative frameworks in Kapseret may still be underdeveloped or inconsistently applied. Strengthening collaboration between the county government and citizen groups could further enhance joint ownership of development projects, as emphasized by Ansell and Gash (2018) in their model of collaborative governance.

Importantly, empowerment practices—such as educating citizens about their rights, responsibilities, and the structure of county governance—showed a strong and statistically significant relationship with public participation practices implementation. This confirms

that when citizens are not only informed but also empowered to take part in decision-making processes, the quality and legitimacy of public policies improve substantially (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018). Empowerment contributes to sustained civic engagement and ensures that marginalized voices are not excluded from development planning.

In conclusion, the study affirms that informing, consulting, and empowering citizens are all essential pillars of effective participatory governance in Kapseret Sub-County. While collaboration remains an area requiring more investment and structural support, overall, citizen participation remains a decisive factor in the successful implementation of county development initiatives.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the study findings from Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of public participation and support the successful implementation of the Public participation practices:

**Strengthen Informing Practices for Public Participation.** The county government should prioritize the improvement of its informing practices, as these were found to significantly influence the successful implementation of the public participation practices. In particular, consistent and timely dissemination of information before, during, and after public participation forums is essential. Authorities should ensure that all citizens—regardless of literacy levels or digital access—can access relevant information through multiple platforms such as local FM radio stations, community barazas, mobile phone alerts, and printed notices in public places.

Furthermore, the results and resolutions of public deliberations should be routinely published and made easily accessible. This transparency not only boosts public confidence but also encourages continued civic engagement by demonstrating that citizen input leads to tangible

policy outcomes. As noted by Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015), clear communication and public feedback loops are essential for building participatory legitimacy and sustaining citizen trust in governance.

Incorporating inclusive communication strategies—including vernacular translations, sign language interpretation, and visually accessible materials—can also address existing information gaps and foster greater equity in citizen participation (Fung, 2015; Joshi & McCluskey, 2017). These measures are particularly crucial in rural and underserved parts of Kapseret, where digital connectivity and formal education levels may be limited.

Ultimately, well-informed citizens are better positioned to participate meaningfully, hold local leadership accountable, and contribute constructively to development planning. As studies have shown, informed public involvement is a key determinant of successful policy implementation in decentralized systems (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; Cornwall, 2016).

**Enhance Consultation Mechanisms to Deepen Citizen Input.** To improve the effectiveness of public participation practices implementation, the county government should institutionalize structured consultation processes during all phases of development planning and project execution. Consultations should move beyond tokenistic engagement and become inclusive, deliberative, and feedback-oriented. For instance, holding targeted focus group discussions, town hall meetings, and digital forums can enable citizens—especially women, youth, and persons with disabilities—to meaningfully contribute to development decisions.

Empirical studies have shown that inclusive consultation practices significantly enhance policy legitimacy and implementation success (Abers, 2020). Establishing formal timelines for receiving and incorporating public feedback would also foster a sense of ownership among stakeholders and improve responsiveness by the county government (OECD, 2017).

Strengthen Collaborative Structures between Citizens and County Officials. Although collaboration showed a positive relationship with public participation practices implementation, the relatively weaker correlation suggests that existing collaborative mechanisms in Kapseret may be underutilized or fragmented. The county should invest in building multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together civil society organizations, private sector actors, and community representatives for co-planning and co-monitoring of development initiatives.

Such collaborative governance frameworks—often termed “co-production”—can enhance efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of county programs (Ansell & Gash, 2018; Bovaird & Loeffler, 2016). Training both county officials and community leaders in participatory facilitation and conflict resolution can also help address mistrust and improve dialogue.

Institutionalize Empowerment Programs to Build Citizen Capacity. The county should roll out sustained civic education and empowerment programs aimed at equipping citizens with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to participate meaningfully in public affairs. These programs should cover legal rights under the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the structure and function of county governments, and how citizens can influence budgetary and policy decisions.

Empowerment practices should also target marginalized groups who may be excluded from mainstream participation due to structural inequalities. Studies confirm that when citizens are empowered—not just informed—they are more likely to mobilize collectively and demand accountability from duty bearers (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; Cornwall, 2016). Therefore, the county should partner with civic organizations, youth groups, and local institutions to mainstream empowerment into development programming.

Monitor and Evaluate Public Participation Outcomes Regularly. Finally, the county government should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to assess the effectiveness of public participation practices and their impact on public participation practices implementation. Key performance indicators (KPIs) should include participation rates, satisfaction levels, quality of deliberations, and integration of citizen feedback into final decisions. Feedback loops should be closed by informing participants about how their contributions influenced policy outcomes.

Adopting such a performance-based approach aligns with international best practices in public sector governance and will ensure that participation remains a living practice rather than a procedural formality (World Bank, 2019; OECD, 2017).

### **5.5 Recommendations for Further Research**

While this study focused on evaluating the effect of public participation practices on the implementation of the Public participation practices within the context of healthcare management in Kapseret Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, it was not exhaustive. The study primarily examined informing, consultation, collaboration, and empowerment practices. However, public participation is a complex and multi-dimensional process that can be influenced by numerous other variables that were not addressed in this research.

Firstly, future studies should investigate the role of demographic factors, such as age, education level, gender, socioeconomic status, and urban–rural residency, in shaping the nature and quality of public participation. These factors can significantly influence citizens’ awareness, willingness, and capacity to engage in governance processes (Joshi & McCluskey, 2017; Cornwall, 2016). For example, youth and women in rural areas may face structural or cultural barriers that limit their ability to participate effectively, despite constitutional guarantees for inclusion.

Secondly, it is recommended that further research be conducted on the strategic facilitation of public participation and its impact on public participation practices implementation. This includes exploring the role of facilitators, the use of digital tools (e-participation), and the structuring of participatory forums to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and constructive dialogue. As noted by Nabatchi and Leighninger (2015), facilitation quality can determine whether participation is transformative or merely symbolic.

Third, comparative studies across different counties—especially those with varied levels of success in public participation practices implementation—could offer broader insights into best practices and context-specific challenges. Such research would contribute to evidence-based reforms in participatory governance under Kenya’s devolved system.

Finally, future research could adopt longitudinal or mixed-method designs to examine how changes in public participation practices over time affect the sustainability of public participation practices implementation. This would help reveal not just correlation but causal linkages between citizen engagement and development outcomes (Gaventa & Barrett, 2018; World Bank, 2019).

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**APPENDIX I: Informed Consent**

To Research Participant

C/O Mount Kenya University

October, 2024

Dear participant,

I J Abigaël Chirchir, a Post Graduate student at Mount Kenya University, pursuing a degree of Masters of Arts in Public Management wishes to request for your participation in a research thesis as project fulfilment for award of the degree. The study is titled **Effects Of Public participation practices On Implementation Of County Policy: A Case Of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya**

As a participant in the research, you will be required to spare a few minutes to complete attached questionnaire. Your confidentiality will be protected: there will be no mention of your personal details anywhere throughout the research process or thereafter. No benefit shall accrue to you as a participant financially or otherwise. However, the research findings are expected to improve on knowledge and planning for all stakeholders.

You have a right to withdraw at any level. Any concern regarding this study should be raised with the undersigned.

Yours Faithfully,

Name of Participant (Optional).....Sign.....

**Contact/For any concerns**

**The Chairman, MKU IREC, P O Box 342-01000, THIKA**

## Appendix II: Questionnaire Survey

The questionnaire forms part of a MBA study conducted under supervision of the School of Business, Mount Kenya University and will only be used for academic purposes.

This questionnaire consists of three sections. Please mark the appropriate box with a tick [√].

### SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION

i) Name of the Organization (Optional) .....

ii) Respondent's Position/Title .....

iii) Gender: Male Female

iv) Age: Below 30 years 30-50 years over 50 years

v) Academic level: O level Graduate Post graduate

Other qualification

vi) Number of employees in the organization: .....

vii) How long has the organization been in operation? .....

## SECTION B: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP STYLES IN THE ORGANISATION

To what extent are each of the following actions performed in your organization?

Strategic Action	Not at all	Small Extent	Moderate Extent	Large Extent	Very Large Extent
<b>Transformational leadership</b>					
i) Leaders in your organization have a clear vision of what to be achieved and clearly communicate this vision					
ii) leaders in your organization have the courage to take new challenges, take calculated risks and make the difficult decision necessary to achieve the goals					
iii) Leaders in your organization inspire the team and get them to buy					

into their vision and execute them in all levels.					
iv) Leaders in your organization live according to the stand they set.					
<b>Transactional leadership style</b>					
i) Leaders in your organization use rewards and punishment to gain compliance from the team.					
ii) Leaders in your organization work within existing systems and negotiate to attain goals of the organization.					
iii) Leaders in your organization believe in transforming the work environment to make things better.					
iv) Leaders in your organization make all the decisions for the team for them to simply follow instructions.					
<b>Inspirational leadership style</b>					

i) Leaders in your organization have a clear vision and strategy for the team.					
ii) Leaders in your organization keep the team focused on goals and strategy even in the midst of turmoil.					
iii) Leaders in your organization give credit where it's due and recognize that their achievement are rarely theirs alone.					
iv) Leaders in your organization encourage creative and innovative thinking.					
v) Leaders in your organization trust the team with Important tasks and decision.					
<b>Paternalistic leadership style</b>					

i) leaders in your organization make employees feel valued and comfortable					
ii) Leaders in your organization plan prioritize and achieve goals set					
iii) Leaders in your organization bring the best in employees to achieve goals and personal growth.					
iv) Leaders in your organization have extensive knowledge about the work to be done and have superior communication skills.					

**SECTION C: INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCE**

Please complete the following matrix by ticking in the box against each statement.

The box you tick should be the most representative of your organization.

<b>Aspects of performance</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Small Extent</b>	<b>Moderate Extent</b>	<b>Large Extent</b>	<b>Very Large Extent</b>
-------------------------------	-------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------

Fresh ideas are always implemented in our organization					
Our organization seeks new ways for the implementation of the work.					
Creativity in the working methods is key in our organization					
Our organization is generally the first in the market with new products and services.					
Innovation is accepted as a risk in our organization and it shows resistance to the innovation.					
New products and services introduced to the market have increased over the last 5 years.					

## Appendix III: ERC



### DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MPAM/2023/45893

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)*  
*Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,*  
*P.O Box 30623- 00100*  
*NAIROBI, KENYA*

Dear Sir/Madam,


**RE: J. CHIRCHIR ABIGAEL – REGISTRATION NO. MPAM/2023/45893**

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Public Administration and Management** in the department of **Management** in the school of **Business and Economics**

The title of the research is **“Effects of Public Participation Practices on Implementation of County Policy, A Case of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.”** It has been cleared by the University’s Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **February, 2024 and April, 2024.**

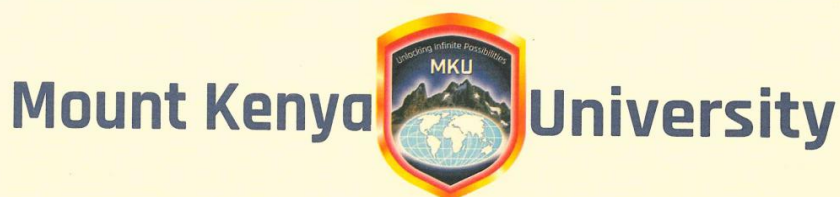
Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

  
**Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, PhD**  
**Director, Graduate Studies**  
Enc.

Mount Kenya University  
P. O. Box 342 - 01000, THIKA  
Office of the Director  
Graduate Studies

## Appendix IV: Introductory Letter



### DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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MPAM/2023/45893

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)  
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,  
P.O Box 30623- 00100  
NAIROBI, KENYA*

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**Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, PhD**  
**Director, Graduate Studies**  
Enc.

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Office of the Director  
Graduate Studies

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Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.  
Tel: 020-2878 000, Cell: +254 709 153 000  
Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke  
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## Appendix V: NACOSTI

 <b>REPUBLIC OF KENYA</b>	 <b>NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &amp; INNOVATION</b>
Ref No: <b>191397</b>	Date of Issue: <b>03/April/2025</b>
<b>RESEARCH LICENSE</b>	
	
<p><b>This is to Certify that Ms. ABIGAE JEPKEMBOI CHIRCHIR of Mount Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Uasin-Gishu on the topic: EFFECTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTY POLICY: A CASE OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY, KENYA for the period ending : 03/April/2026.</b></p>	
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## APPENDIX VI: Turnitin

### EFFECTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRACTICES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTY POLICY: A CASE OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY, KENYA

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