

**EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY TRANSFER
FUNDED PROJECTS IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS:
A CASE OF MOGOTIO DISTRICT, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

Local Authority Transfer Fund is amongst the less popular decentralized programs with the smallest participation of the citizens at the grassroots, despite it being a bigger kitty for local development. Since its inception in 1999/2000, many development projects have been initiated through the programme and are at various levels of completion and utilization. The purpose of the study was to investigate community participation in the implementation of Local Authorities Transfer Funded projects in public primary schools in Mogotio District. Three research objectives guided the study. Research objective one sought to evaluate the extent to which community is involved in identification of needs of LATF funded projects in public primary schools, objective two to evaluate the extent to which community is involved in prioritization of needs of LATF funded projects in public primary schools while research objective three sought to establish the level of community participation in provision of labour as community contribution in LATF funded projects in public primary schools in Mogotio District. The research design used in this study was descriptive survey and was guided by Falleti's sequential theory of decentralization. The study population included all head teachers, SMC chairs, local leaders and the town clerk in Mogotio District. The study adopted random sampling technique to select 27 head teachers and 27 SMC chairs from public primary schools that benefited from LATF. Stratified sampling technique was used to select 5 local leaders from each of the three county representation wards in Mogotio District. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the county council clerk. The total number of respondents involved in the study was 70. Secondary data was collected from school records and the office of the town clerk in Mogotio District whereas questionnaires were used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. The questionnaires were pilot tested and a Cronbach coefficient alpha of 0.708 was obtained. The collected data was coded, edited for errors and then analyzed. Descriptive statistics and non parametric tests were computed with the aid of SPSS version 17.0 to generate frequency distributions and percentages. The findings were presented using frequency tables, charts and graphs. The findings revealed that the community was not involved in the identification and prioritization of needs but the findings showed that there was minimal community involvement in provision of labour. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the community to be actively involved in designing, implementing and shaping the primary school projects that affect them. The government should invest resources to build the capacities of local communities to prioritize and plan their own projects based on their own analysis of needs.